

Another Iraqi missile fired at S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi forces fired another Scud missile at Saudi Arabia Monday, but it fell harmlessly into the Gulf north of Dhahran, the Defence Department said. The missile was fired at about 9 p.m. local time (1800 GMT), said army Lieutenant General Tom Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In a briefing for reporters, he also repeated an earlier U.S. military report that 10 Iraqi Scuds were fired at Saudi Arabia on Sunday. He said nine were shot down by U.S. Patriot air defence missiles and the other fell into the Gulf.



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Masri contacts Velayati

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday contacted his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed with him the latest developments in the Gulf war, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the Iranian news agency IRNA as saying. Mr. Masri called for a halt to all military operations in the Gulf and voiced Jordan's willingness to contribute to all efforts for a peaceful solution to the conflict, Petra quoted IRNA as saying. Mr. Masri urged Iran to use all its efforts to end the war, it said. Iran said earlier Monday that the Non-Aligned Movement was planning an initiative to end the Gulf war (see story below). Jordan and Iran resumed diplomatic relations earlier this month after a 10-year break.

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Gulf war continues from air

Focus shifts to ground forces

Combined agency dispatches

AMERICAN AND allied forces' aircraft continued to stage bombing runs on targets in Iraq and Kuwait, and the thrust of the assault appeared to be shifting to ground forces entrenched in and around southern Iraq and Kuwait.

However, U.S. military officials warned, a ground offensive against the Iraqi army was far from near since it was clear that Iraq's air force remained very much intact despite five days of intense bombings.

Baghdad indicated that there had been heavy civilian casualties in the onslaught, and Iran appeared to confirm the account.

Iraq said Monday it had shot down 13 allied aircraft and missiles and captured several pilots. "Communique number 13 issued tonight by the general command of the armed forces announces the shooting down of 13 air targets, aircraft and missiles, at the war fronts or over civilian areas," the Iraqi News Agency said.

A number of enemy pilots of various nationalities were captured. Other pilots were found dead, said the agency.

The agency did not say when the planes and missiles were hit and it was not clear if Iraq was raising its count of downed aircraft and captured pilots. It has previously reported downing 160 allied aircraft.

Allied military spokesman in Saudi Arabia say 14 of their planes have been shot down and three have crashed due to other causes.

For the second day in a row, Iraq has disclosed the areas hit by the allied raids.

The Iraqi Armed Forces general command issued a communique in which it listed 14 separate air raids on Iraq, as well as others on Kuwait.

The attacks, between 1:15 p.m. (1345 GMT) Sunday and 5:32 a.m. (0232 GMT) Monday, included two raids on Al Qaim, a western Iraq city that has a nuclear-chemical research facility nearby, and one on the northern city of Mosul, where an air base and chemical research facilities are located.

The communique said there were raids on the northern oil centre of Kirkuk and Al Rutba in western Iraq, site of an air base and surface-to-surface missile sites.

Also targeted was Al Nassiriyah in southern Iraq, which has an air base, and Baghdad.

"The aggression has been unjust in every sense of the word," said Baghdad Radio. "It has been devoid of the minimum human standards."

Iraq's report of civilian casualties was given added weight by an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement.

"In the past four days, due to censorship, the news of the air and missile attacks on Iraq by the United States and its Western allies, has painted an unrealistic picture," said the statement, carried by Tehran Radio and monitored in Nicosia.

"Based on comprehensive reports Iran has gotten from the bombed region," said the foreign ministry, "it is evident that the U.S. attacks have exceeded military goals."

"Economic resources, and in some instances Iraqi cities and the innocent people of Iraq, have been attacked."

Although Tehran gave no casualty figures from the attacks, a pro-Iranian figure, Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Madarresi, said the bombardment was causing "waves of massacres among civilians."

Ayatollah Madarresi, whose statement was released in Damascus, said Iraqi hospitals

U.S. forces are 'nowhere near' wiping out Iraqi missile power

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. military officials conceded Monday they were "nowhere near" wiping out Iraq's missile launching capability.

Iraqi forces fired 10 Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia Sunday night, and all but one were intercepted by American Patriot batteries.

Air force jets continue to aggressively pursue Iraqis fixed and mobile Scud capabilities said air force Major General Burton Moore.

But he acknowledged that after five days and more than 8,000 sorties, "we have not achieved 100 per cent of our objectives against the fixed sites, the mobile sites and the Scud missile capability."

Asked whether Iraq retained powerful military capability, including poison gas, with which to combat any future ground assault, Gen. Moore replied: "That is always a possibility. We plan for the worst; we hope for the best."

But while conceding a lack of success in attacks on the missile launchers, Gen. Moore stated that overall "the results to date would suggest we are well on the way to our objectives."

Gen. Moore said that two

more Iraqi planes were shot down in the past 21 hours. He said a U.S. Navy F-11 Tomcat was lost during the same time period.

That is the ninth U.S. aircraft lost to "hostile fire" since the war began. He said a total of five allied planes also had been lost.

Gen. Moore said the allied attacks against Iraqi forces were continuing round-the-clock. "We are always pursuing Iraqi troops both in Iraq and in Kuwait," he said.

Gen. Moore cited operational security reasons in declining to say how many Iraqi missile launchers were targets of sorties in the past 24 hours.

But he said, "we are nowhere near completing our campaign objectives."

He said Iraq's efforts to use the missiles for attacks on U.S.

and allied forces, as well as Israel, have been "very ineffective."

Gen. Moore also said he knew nothing about possible civilian casualties from the air attacks on Iraq.

As for Operation Desert Storm's successes, Gen. Moore said, "we have set back his nuclear capability for some time."

Asked about the campaign to cut communications between Baghdad and Iraqi ground forces in Kuwait, Gen. Moore said, "We have indications that we are effectively degrading a good portion of Iraq's ability to communicate with troops. But we have not eliminated that capability completely."

"The results to date would

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Iraq: All launchers safe

Iraq also said all missile launchers used in the attack on Saudi Arabia overnight were safe.

"The missiles of right were launched against the city of Riyadh and the imperialist base," Iraqi radio quoted the commander of Iraq's missile forces as saying.

"After the mission was accomplished, all our launchers returned safely to base," he said in a message to president Saddam Hussein. The British broadcasting corporation, which monitored the radio, said reception was poor.

Baghdad to use PoWs as deterrents; U.S. cries foul

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD ANNOUNCED Monday that it was scattering allied prisoners of war (PoWs) at civilian targets as the savage American-led air war against Iraq continued for the fifth day running.

The move came as the Iraqis announced that they held more than 20 PoWs. The allies have reported 21 airmen missing.

An Iraqi diplomat hinted at a surprise weapon and warned that the Vietnam war would "appear a picnic in comparison with what is in store for the USA in this war."

Baghdad Radio said allied warplanes had "rocketed civilian, economic, educational and other targets within Iraqi cities." The broadcast said that "because of the rocketing, it was decided to disperse the more than 20 prisoners of war to civilian, economic, education and other targets."

In Washington, President George Bush condemned Iraq's use of PoWs to make televised statements, saying the move was

"a direct violation" of the Geneva Convention regarding treatment of prisoners.

Televised comments of some of the PoWs, from the United States, Britain, Kuwait and Italy, criticising the anti-Iraq effort were broadcast Sunday.

Asked whether Iraq would be held accountable for the treatment of PoWs, Bush replied: "You can count on it."

"America is angry," Mr. Bush said upon his return from Camp David, "and I think the rest of the world." He issued "the strongest appeal" that allied prisoners be treated properly under the Geneva Convention.

Bush's comments were part of a coordinated administration effort to draw attention to the sensitive issue of treatment of downed American pilots.

Also Monday, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney condemned the treatment of prisoners as a "war crime."

The 28-nation alliance has reported 21 airmen missing in the five-day war.

The pilots were downed during a massive air campaign

against Iraq in which U.S. officials say more than 7,000 missions have been flown so far.

Baghdad TV Sunday aired what it said were interviews with seven captured pilots it said were shot down.

During the interviews, the airmen made statements supporting the Iraqi position.

Two Americans and a British pilot were shown on Iraqi TV during the broadcast.

Iraq says it has shot down 160 allied warplanes, while the allies admit to 14 aircraft losses to hostile fire.

The allies have listed the airmen missing in action as 12 Americans, six Britons, two Italians and a Kuwaiti.

Baghdad's announcement that it was using PoWs as deterrents was a replay of a pre-war strategy of trying to deter attack by holding foreigners at military and other strategic sites.

All of them were freed in December.

Earlier Monday, the ranking Iraqi diplomat in Washington

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Bomb blasts damage NATO military facility in Istanbul

Blackout on news

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Bombs exploded at a NATO maintenance facility here Monday night after gunmen overpowered a guard, police said. The explosions caused extensive damage but no injury, they said.

Three of eight bombs went off, shattering windows and causing other damage to the five-storey building, police said.

A Communist anti-government organisation claimed responsibility for the attack on the centre, which overlooks the Bosphorus on the outskirts of Istanbul.

Police refused to give other details.

The attackers apparently fled. It was not known if there were any other people in the building besides the guard at the time of the blasts.

An anonymous caller to a local newspaper, Cumhuriyet, claimed responsibility for the blast in the name of Devsol (Revolutionary Left).

There was speculation that the attack might be in retaliation for NATO member Turkey's stand in the Gulf war.

Turkey, trying to keep its Gulf war role out of the headlines, has virtually stifled news of U.S. air raids launched on Iraq from the southern Incirlik base.

Plainclothes police kept reporters well away from the base perimeter and U.S. spokesmen at Incirlik refused all comment.

Waves of U.S. fighters and bombers have been flying in and out of the base since early Friday, but the government has not officially confirmed that they are attacking Iraq.

Renter photographer Fatih Saribas heard a large number of planes taking off late on Sunday night on what was believed to be the fourth sortie against Iraq in 24 hours.

He said another wave was heard leaving the base at dawn on Monday and returned several hours later, but low cloud prevented the planes being counted or identified.

"There is a general understanding not to talk about what is going on at Incirlik," one Foreign Ministry official said.

Many Turks, especially in the southeastern border region, fear Iraq may retaliate against Turkey for allowing the United States to launch bombing raids from its territory.

Emergency State Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu told Reuters on Sunday thousands of people had fled the southeast.

The Health Ministry has sent more than 1,000 medical staff to border provinces as part of a contingency plan for war. Health Minister Halil Sivgin said Monday.

"The Health Ministry has sent more than 1,000 health personnel to the southeastern and eastern provinces. We will also send medical equipment to the region," he told reporters.

He said special teams from the World Health Organisation were in Turkey to teach doctors how to treat injuries caused by chemical weapons.

"Iraq's missiles have ranges of 400 to 500 km, but they are not a risk for Turkey. I do not think Iraq will attempt to attack. We still have to be prepared," he said.

Jordan pursues efforts for truce

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is pursuing an intense effort with all friendly countries in the Non-Aligned Movement and Third World towards achieving a ceasefire in the five-day-old assault on Iraq by U.S.-led forces in the Gulf, informed sources said Monday.

His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan both have appealed for a halt to the fighting and for diplomacy to replace belligerence to resolve the conflict. The King said Saturday he had not been in touch with the Iraqi leadership since the outbreak of hostilities early Thursday, but that he was issuing a call for a ceasefire "if anyone responds."

"Although it is very clear at this point that it is an almost impossible task to secure a truce in the war, Jordan cannot simply give up," said a senior official. "If the stakes are too high for many who are hurt by the conflict, they are even higher for Jordan," he added.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine said Jordan was in touch with Arab, African and non-aligned countries such as Algeria, India and Yugoslavia in its efforts to halt the hostilities in the Gulf which broke out with a massive air assault by the American-dominated multinational forces against Iraq early Thursday.

"It is unacceptable and unreasonable that no one moves to stop the war when an Arab capital is being bombed and destroyed," Mr. Izzeddine said. "Priority should be given for an end to the hostilities and then negotiations can start to arrive at a comprehensive solution to all problems of the region," he said.

The foreign minister, Taher Al Masri, Sunday called in several ambassadors of non-aligned countries and others to request them to convey a Jordanian appeal for "all out efforts to put an immediate end to the carnage in Iraq," said an official source.

Among those called in were the ambassadors of India, China and Yugoslavia. Other contacts were continuing Monday both in Amman and at the United Nations, the source said.

"The minister expressed Jordan's horror over the massive attack, which, needless to say, is sure to have caused many, many casualties," the source told the Jordan Times.

"Jordan is not proposing any specific peace initiative," said the source who preferred anonymity. "Jordan believes that what is paramount is a ceasefire to allow for rescue and relief efforts to victims of the violence," according to the source.

The ambassadors promised to convey the request to their respective capitals and also pointed out that their positions were very much compatible with that of Jordan.

Another official conceded that there was little chance of any effort to succeed given "the American and allied arm-twisting, at the U.N., of the Third World member states of the Security Council."

"As is obvious, the United States is not exactly very anxious or concerned for a ceasefire," said the official. "The feedback from the Security Council is mainly that there is a lot of pressure from the U.S. on all others to lay off."

Apart from the humanitarian considerations and anxiety that the war should be brought to an immediate end, Jordan is also alarmed about the potential threats posed to the regional environment, and ecological disasters that could follow, by the

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Iraq rejects Soviet proposal, scraps pacts with S. Arabia

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI LEADER Saddam Hussein has rejected a peace proposal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying it should have been sent instead to the United States, Iraqi radio reported Monday.

Iraq, at war with allied forces based in Saudi Arabia, also abrogated all pacts and agreements with the kingdom including a non-aggression pact signed two years ago.

Radio Baghdad said the decision was made at a meeting of the Revolutionary Council (RCC), Iraq's highest authority.

The decision is academic since the two Arab neighbours have been at war since Thursday. Iraq Sunday night fired Scud missiles at Saudi targets, including the capital, Riyadh.

The RCC is Iraq's highest executive body and is chaired by President Saddam. The radio did not say whether President Saddam chaired the meeting, but said in a separate item that he met several RCC members.

The RCC statement said the decision was made "in view of the Saudi government's breach of all agreements and charters

with Iraq in the framework of sovereignty and non-aggression."

Saudi Arabia has been a key partner in the western and Arab anti-Iraq coalition since Baghdad's August 2 takeover of Kuwait.

It is the main launching pad for allied planes, which have been carrying out bombing missions against targets in Iraq and Kuwait since Thursday. The Saudi air force is taking part in the attacks.

On the diplomatic front, President Saddam was quoted as telling Mr. Gorbachev that U.S. President George Bush "has committed aggression." Therefore your letter should have been addressed to him and not to Saddam Hussein and his aggrieved people."

According to the radio, Mr. Gorbachev said in a letter dated Jan. 18 that he would intercede with Mr. Bush to ensure a suspension of hostilities if Iraq agreed to announce plans to withdraw from Kuwait.

President Saddam replied on Sunday, said the radio.

"We are not the ones who have committed aggression against the United States," Pres-

ident Saddam's reply said. "So we should not be asked to make statements that would make the United States appear to be twisting our steadfast will and that would tempt it to continue its blackmail and arrogance in our region..."

According to the radio, President Saddam recalled that the Soviet Union first reacted positively when Iraq suggested on Aug. 12 that the Iraq-Kuwait conflict could be resolved in tandem with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But Mr. Saddam told Mr. Gorbachev, "You did not however pursue your efforts to put it within the framework of serious discussion."

According to the radio, the letter ended: "God is great. Accursed he Bush and his henchmen."

The Iraqi News Agency carried the full text of a statement issued after the RCC meeting. It said: "The Revolutionary Command Council has decided to cancel all agreements and treaties signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and

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Eagleburger: Israel has right to retaliate for missile attacks

Bush said to have pledged no peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior U.S. envoy said Monday Israel had a right to retaliate against Iraq's missile attacks but praised its restraint in not yet doing so.

"We recognise and respect the right of every sovereign state to defend itself, and thus have never questioned Israel's right to respond to attack," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said after touring sites hit by Iraqi Scud missiles in Tel Aviv.

After he spoke the Israeli army repeated warnings that U.S. and allied bombers had still not destroyed most of the Iraqi mobile missile launchers threatening the Jewish state.

"There is no doubt most of them are still available and operational," armed forces spokesman Nachman Shai said.

Israel had not responded to two Iraqi missile strikes but "any future reaction on our side depends if there will be any attacks on Israel," Gen. Shai told a

briefing. Washington has pressed Israel not to retaliate, fearing it would splinter the U.S.-led alliance of Arab and Western forces against Iraq.

The U.S. rushed high-tech Patriot missiles with American crew to Israel over the weekend after two barrages of Scuds injured a total of 28 people in Israel's densely populated coastal plain. Patriots are the only missiles capable of shooting down Scuds.

"We also recognise and respect Israel's desire not to be drawn into this conflict," Mr. Eagleburger told a news conference.

"We admire the fact they have not thus far become engaged for reasons that in our judgement are important both to Israel and the United States," he said.

Reports from Washington has spoken of a pledge by President Bush to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, during their telephone conversations, that

Washington would not agree to an international peace conference on the Middle East as called for by the Arab states. Nor would the U.S. press Israel to agree to such a forum, according to the reports.

Mr. Shamir has bowed to American pressure to keep his air force and Jericho missiles on the ground. But Mr. Shamir, who also toured the bomb sites, said Israel had not changed its policy of swift and often massive retaliation when attacked.

Mr. Eagleburger entered the news conference with mud on his boots from a visit to a Patriot site. He denied that Washington had demanded a no-retaliation pledge from Israel in return for U.S. help with the Patriots.

"No deals have been struck on anything," he said.

Israelis were also warned Monday Iraq could launch more rockets, possibly with chemical

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Iran reports non-aligned states planning Gulf peace initiative

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN SAID MONDAY that the Non-Aligned Movement will launch a peace initiative to halt the Gulf war. Pakistan and Egypt also pursued a diplomatic settlement.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying in Tehran that the non-aligned initiative will be backed by Iran, India, Yugoslavia and Algeria. The dispatch gave no other details.

Tanjung, Yugoslavia's state-run news agency, reported Monday that Yugoslavia, an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement, was seeking backing for the initiative from the Soviet Union, Egypt and several other countries.

Mr. Velayati disclosed that Iran's earlier proposal, calling for the 16-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to convene an emergency session to seek a ceasefire, had garnered little support.

He said only 10 member countries responded favourably to the initiative.

Tehran Radio said Alireza Moayeri, an adviser to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, left for Ankara Monday to deliv-

er a message about the Gulf war to Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Egypt, a key player in the Gulf crisis, has embarked on a round of diplomatic consultations with other Arab states.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said Monday that President Hosni Mubarak sent information Minister Safwat Al Sherif to deliver a message to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. The official refused to disclose details of the message, except that it was about the Gulf war.

Mr. Mubarak also sent his foreign minister, Esmat Abdul Meguid, and his top political adviser, Osama Al Baz, to Syria. They conferred Sunday night with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Monday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

In Pakistan, where there have been daily pro-Iraq demonstrations, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced he will embark on a four-nation mission to end the war.

Spokesman Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said Mr. Sharif was expected to leave Tuesday for Iran. He will then head for Turkey, Egypt and Syria.

A leading journalist close to

President Mubarak wrote Monday that Egypt may propose a temporary ceasefire in the Gulf war to allow Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Ibrahim Nafeh, editor of the largest state-owned newspaper Al Ahram, said the plan being considered also suggests new action by the United Nations to produce the withdrawal.

The U.N. Security Council would issue an ultimatum to Iraq to begin immediately and unconditionally to pull Iraq's troops out of Kuwait to be replaced by Arab troops, Nafeh said.

Nafeh wrote Egypt has been conducting extensive diplomatic and political efforts with international and regional parties to "save Iraq and halt the bloodshed."

Ideas have surfaced aiming at reconciling the various Security Council resolutions on the Gulf and stopping the war, the editor wrote. But he said Egypt's efforts to develop an Arab and international stand has faced stiff opposition from the Iraqis.

Nafeh wrote that under Mr. Mubarak's tentative plan, the ceasefire would be for a specified period not to exceed a few days, permitting total withdrawal.

France under fire among N. Africans

TUNIS (R) — Arabs angered at non-stop raids on Iraq are strongly criticising France, seen before the Gulf war as more pragmatic than any other member of the U.S.-led international alliance against Baghdad.

Anti-French criticism has particularly flared in North Africa, which still has close ties with Paris, the former colonial ruler of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

"France has let us down," (President Francois) Mitterrand has turned out to be just another Arab-hater," said Mustapha Tili, director of the Tunis-based Arab Maghreb Labour Union.

"Death to Mitterrand" is a more common slogan at many pro-Iraq demonstrations in the Arab World than criticism of the United States, although France has not taken part in Iraq attacks and has limited its air force to targets in Kuwait.

Western diplomats say France suspects the campaign against it may be orchestrated, as part of attempts to split it away from the U.S.-led coalition.

Demonstrators against the Gulf war in Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania have singled out France as the main target in the Gulf crisis, although its armed forces there are a fraction the size that Washington has sent.

In Nouakchott, about 100 French women and children flew out Sunday after a week of pro-Iraq demonstrations. Almost 1,000 people, mostly French, have left their homes to camp out in the French embassy compound there.

In Algeria, where almost 30,000 French people live, flights to Paris have been crowded with French people who say they detect a strong "anti-Western sentiment" aimed specifically at them. Some French residents have

complained of insulting telephone calls and three French companies have withdrawn their expatriate employees from the country, although there has been no general order for the French to leave any North African country.

Jordan joined the criticism of France on Sunday, when the speaker of the parliament called on France to withdraw its forces from the Gulf.

Abdul Latif Arahayat said Franco-Jordanian relations after the war could suffer as a result of the Arab World's "bitter reaction" to French military involvement.

In Tunis, France's embassy is guarded by tanks and armoured vehicles. Mr. Mitterrand was the main target in a protest march by 25,000 Tunisians through the capital Saturday.

Foreign diplomats say the demonstration was officially approved and slogans and banners carefully monitored.

North African countries have also been angered by reports that the Maghreb community in France, numbering several million, is being persecuted.

Police sources in the southern French city of Marseille said a Tunisian restaurant was attacked with explosives and a North African immigrants' hostel was shot at over the weekend.

Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said on Sunday Paris should send envoys to Arab countries to explain that its military involvement was not intended as an attack on Arabs.

"The first thing is to say: 'We are not waging war on the Arab people.' We could take some initiatives, send a certain number of emissaries to confirm this to Arab (nations) with which France has direct relations," he said.

Manila expels Iraqi after linking him to blast

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippines Monday linked an Iraqi diplomat to a bombing near a U.S. government library during the weekend and gave him 72 hours to leave the country.

Also Monday, police arrested another Iraqi in connection with Saturday's blast, which killed one Iraqi and injured another.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters there was strong evidence linking Iraqi Embassy First Secretary Muwafak Al Ani to the bombing. He said Mr. Ani had been under surveillance for some time.

President Corason Aquino said another man had been arrested in connection with the bombing. She did not identify him, but government sources said he was an Iraqi arrested Monday.

The high-powered bomb went off by accident about a block from the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Centre, a U.S.-run library in Manila. Mr. Manglapus identified the dead Iraqi as Ahmad J. Ahmad and the injured as Abdul Kadhim Saad.

Previously, officials identified the injured Iraqi as Abdul Sattar Hashim, a student at the University of Manila. There was no explanation for the confusion over the name. Ahmad's passport, which identified him as a businessman, was found at the scene of the blast.

They entered the country last month and planned to leave on the night of the bombing for an undisclosed destination abroad, he said.

Sarah Andes, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, said an investigation showed Mr. Ani dropped off Saad and Ahmad near the blast site about 1½ hours before the explosion.

Andes said the third Iraqi drove the car. She said the bomb

exploded by accident when Ahmad tried to set the timer. The blast smashed windows, blew a small hole in the pavement and hurled Ahmad's body on to the roof of a house 11 metres away.

Mr. Ani and other Iraqi Embassy officials were unavailable for comment. Al Ani told a local television network Sunday that Baghdad "has no intention at all to disturb Philippine security."

Iraq has called for retaliation against Western countries supporting the multinational effort to expel it from Kuwait.

The Philippine armed forces said Monday they had increased protection for diplomats and nationals of the United States and its Gulf war allies after Saturday's bomb blast.

"We have set into place certain (security) measures. We are continuously watching groups that might be involved in this matter," Incoming Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Rodolfo Biazon said.

The bombing attempt was believed to be the first attack outside the Middle East on a member of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Two international aid groups working in eastern Pakistan were attacked with petrol bombs at the weekend. In Indonesia, a bomb was found on Friday in the grounds of the U.S. ambassador's residence.

Mr. Manglapus said the Philippines was not cutting diplomatic relations with Iraq, and still recognised the present Iraqi ambassador, Ali Sumaida.

Asked if there could be more attacks by pro-Iraqis in the Philippines, Mr. Manglapus said: "If this turns out to be part of an extensive plan, then we should brace ourselves for more attempts."

Siad Barre names new premier

NAIROBI (R) — Somalia's embattled President Mohammad Siad Barre has appointed a new prime minister to try to implement a ceasefire between loyalist and rebel forces after three weeks of fierce fighting which shattered the capital Mogadishu.

State radio said Umar Arreh Ghaleb, a former foreign minister and a member of a seven-man reconciliation committee which the government says is drawing up peace proposals, had replaced Mohammad Hawadle Madar as prime minister.

"The (new) government should strive for the implementation of the resolutions on the ceasefire, bring back those who had fled the capital city and develop Somali society and its interests," state radio said Sunday.

The radio announced no other members of the new government.

It said last week the government and rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) had agreed a truce in fighting which erupted late in December.

But the London office of the USC, one of the three strongest groups fighting to end Mr. Siad Barre's 21-year rule, denied such



Mohammad Siad Barre

an agreement was reached. Little independent news has been available from Mogadishu since the fighting erupted as telephone and telex links are cut. Westerners have been evacuated and a foreign medical team left last week as fighting continued in a city where hundreds of people are thought to have been killed or wounded.

The appointment of a new prime minister appeared to be an attempt to find a political solution by Mr. Siad Barre, whose repeated calls for a ceasefire have so far been rejected.

Until now the rebels have said they will fight on until Mr. Siad Barre, who is aged 80 and who seized power in a 1969 coup, either flees or resigns.

Rocket-propelled grenade fired at Italian embassy

BEIRUT (AP) — A rocket-propelled grenade hit the Italian embassy in Beirut in the second such attack against a Western target since the Gulf war erupted last week, police said Monday.

Authorities said no one was hurt when the grenade hit the embassy building's wall at 11 p.m. local time (2100 GMT) Sunday, shattering windows on the second floor of the two-storey structure off Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare.

The explosion came a few hours after a bomb went off at the British Bank of the Middle East on Hamra Street, causing damage but no casualties.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, which police said were apparently in retaliation for the British and Italian roles in the multinational force arrayed against Iraq.

Sunday's blasts were the first acts of anti-Western violence in Lebanon since the Gulf war broke out five days ago.

Turkey warned

In another development, an

Iraqi Muslim fundamentalist group warned Turkey against attacking Iraq.

"We warn the Turkish government and all those who plan to invade Iraq, to plunder it and defile its people, that our response will be merciless," said a statement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an Iranian-backed faction based in Tehran with a Beirut office.

The statement, published by several Beirut newspapers Monday, did not elaborate.

Allied bombing runs against Iraq are reportedly being mounted from Incirlik, in south-eastern Turkey.

But Turkey, as well as Syria and Iran, have denied any territorial ambitions in Iraq.

Another statement distributed by the group to Western news agency offices Monday called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"That will turn the battle against the Zionist entity into a real confrontation. If you do so we will be ready to rise over the differences separating us so that national reconciliation in Iraq may be brought about," the statement said.

Israel tightens military censorship

TEL AVIV (AP) — This story has been submitted to the Israeli military censor.

That in itself is not surprising, since reporters in Israel accept it as normal for a country that has fought five wars in its 43-year existence.

But since Iraq fired missiles at Israel, authorities have tightened the rules, fearing that news reports pinpointing where war-blasts land could help make Iraqi aim even more dangerous.

For the first time, army censors have been stationed round-the-clock at the offices of major U.S. television networks to monitor broadcasts and to order cuts of material they consider sensitive.

"If anyone of you would like to commit suicide, I urge you very much to do it outside the country," Brigadier General Nachman Shai, the chief army spokesman, told foreign reporters Saturday.

Brig. Shai said footage aired by U.S. television networks after missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa Friday, and on the Tel Aviv area Saturday, were especially damaging. About 30 people were

wounded and dozens of buildings damaged in the two barrages.

"During the firing and shortly afterwards the networks reported the exact places of hits," Brig. Shai said. "They revealed several locations that have been hit, and somebody there (in Iraq) certainly drew lines and made drawings."

"Those reports may easily lead the Iraqi armed forces to certain places, locations that they are looking for," he said. "It's a question of human life that depends very much on you."

A government statement issued to all reporters warned that "severe steps will be taken against transgressors."

Network personnel, who declined to be identified, said the censors had failed to make their regulations clear beforehand.

Military officials have forbidden reporters to identify neighbourhoods hit, but did not restrict accounts of casualties and damage, or complaints by some residents of faults in the civil defence system.

They rubbed out street names and shop signs on photographs,

Pope appeals for end to bloodshed in Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Since the outbreak of war in the Gulf, Pope John Paul II has been issuing one appeal after another urging the world community to put an end to the conflict, which is bound to cause widespread devastation to the region, said Monsignor Ra'ouf Najjar, Representative of the Apostolic Delegation in Amman.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Monsignor Najjar said the latest appeal came from the Pope to the masses crowded in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

"With weapons no one can solve any problem but can surely create more tension among peoples of the world," he quoted the Pope as saying.

"I cannot ignore the fact that the Gulf war is on our that it brings so much suffering and pain to many people and to us," said the Pope in his address.

Quoting part of the Pope's message, Dr. Najjar said the "Holy Father stressed that he

had worked in concert with many others with good will and exhausted his efforts to avert this tragedy and to prevent the outbreak of a conflict."

"Resorting to arms on this scale should prompt everyone of us to reflect on its consequences, and I am particularly concerned about the war spilling over to other areas in the Middle East," the Pope said.

Dr. Najjar gave the following quotes from the Pope's address: "This is the logic of war, one that is trying to involve other countries in the conflict and to endanger the lives of innocent civilians. The indiscriminate bombing which we all heard about is a sad and painful situation because we believe that every citizen has the right to be safe from all military action."

Dr. Najjar said that the Pope appealed to all parties involved in the conflict to cease hostilities as soon as possible and to remove the causes that had caused it in the first place.

Tanker operators discount danger of mines in Gulf

DUBAI (R) — Tanker operators sitting on top of two million barrels of oil Monday discounted the danger from a growing number of mines spotted floating in the Gulf.

"What can a mine do to a supertanker?" asked an official aboard the 307,235-tonne crude oil carrier Esso Geneva. "It can just punch a hole, it cannot sink it."

Other shipping executives said mines might sink smaller vessels and even warships.

The U.S. navy warned all merchant ships Friday that they entered the waterway at their own risk because of mines and possible missile attacks in the war to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Iraq fired up to 10 missiles Sunday night and early Monday morning at Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, where the kingdom's main oilfields, refineries and loading terminals are located.

But shipping executives said tankers were still taking on crude at Ras Tanurah terminal, just north of Dhahran.

Shipping sources said ship-owners and captains would be ready to take the risks if cargo owners paid soaring insurance costs.

Sending mines floating down the Gulf is like sowing mines in the desert and then putting signs on top of them," said one Gulf-based shipping company executive.

The Esso Geneva official, who

declined to be identified, said that despite the U.S. warning, the Gulf was much safer now than it was in the closing stages of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when both sides attacked merchant shipping.

Mines were abundant at that time, he added.

"I can talk only for myself, but the presence of Western navies in the Gulf gives everyone some kind of assurance," said the official, contacted by satellite telephone while the tanker loaded crude at Ras Tanurah.

Western navies have minehunters and minesweepers in the Gulf. Two more British minehunters Saturday joined the three already operating in the Gulf, conduit for at least one-fifth of the West's oil supplies.

A U.S. military spokesman in Riyadh said Sunday that warships of the U.S.-led force in the Gulf had destroyed 19 floating mines, 14 of them sown by Iraq.

But it was not clear if the mines had been planted recently by Iraq or dated back to the Iran-Iraq war.

Shipping sources said there were still minefields in the northern Gulf, sown by Iran and Iraq during their war.

The Middle East navigation aids service in Bahrain reported three mines were spotted bobbing in the northern and central Gulf Sunday.

Some shipping sources said more mines were spotted around Saudi Arabia's Safaniya offshore oilfield close to Kuwait.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladeshis join up to fight for Iraq

DHAKA (R) — More than 1,000 Bangladeshis have signed up with pro-Iraq groups to fight in the Gulf war and thousands more are expected to join them, organisers said on Monday. About 500 volunteers brandishing wooden rifles and machineguns marched through Dhaka, the capital of the overwhelmingly Muslim country, Sunday evening. "Come and join us to save Islam," they chanted. The volunteers were recruited by groups such as the "Saddam force" which have vowed to defend "the holy land of Iraq." The groups described President Saddam as "a great pioneer of Islam and leader of the jihad against Americans and other anti-Islamic forces."

New Zealand to boost Gulf force

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand will send more military staff to the Gulf in response to a request from Britain, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Monday. The cabinet had decided to send up to 20 more servicemen and women to work alongside British forces in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bolger told a news conference. "Given the scale of the conflict it is probable that there will be a much higher scale of casualties in the future and therefore we want to make a contribution," he said. A 32-strong New Zealand army medical team has just arrived in Bahrain to work with U.S. forces, the second part of New Zealand's contribution to the multinational force. It also has two Hercules transport aircraft in Saudi Arabia.

Bashir drops 3 ministers in reshuffle

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has reshuffled his cabinet for the second time since seizing power in a coup 18 months ago. State-run television said Sunday night that Minister of Culture and Information Mohammad Khajji Salhin, Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Ahmad Ibrahim and Minister for Displaced Persons Peter Orat had been sacked. No reasons were given for the sackings. Mr. Orat, a Christian southerner, opposes the introduction of Sharia law in Sudan while the other two are reported to have been lukewarm in their support of Sharia.

Austrian police arrest Iranians

VIENNA (R) — Austrian police have arrested a group of Iranians on suspicion of planning attacks. Interior Minister Franz Loesch said Monday. "In the last 24 hours we arrested 10 or 11 Iranian citizens who are suspected of having committed various misdemeanours such as falsifying documents and similar offences," Mr. Loesch said in a radio interview. "There are also indications that these people were planning terrorist activities. What kind of activities and when they planned to attack is the subject of investigations." The popular daily Kronenzeitung said the Iranians were part of a group which opposed their own government and supported Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Coptic pope predicts short war

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — Pope Shenouda III, the spiritual leader of 22 million Coptic Orthodox Christians, has said that the Gulf war would be a short one, possibly lasting only a few more days. "The war will not take too long a time and everything will be settled in a few days," the pope said in an interview. He declined to explain the reasons for his predictions. The spiritual leader, whose headquarters are in Egypt, was in Cleveland at the weekend.

Jews call for closure of PLO office

LONDON (R) — Leading British Jews, concerned over security during the Gulf war, have urged the government to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in London. "There is a risk of terrorism in this country and it would appear to us one of the great dangers is to have a PLO office in London. It should be closed down," Hayim Pinner, secretary general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, told Sky Television. "Since the Gulf war the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leader Yasser Arafat have allied themselves completely and clearly with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," he said.

Expelled Iraqi diplomats head for Tunis

PARIS (AP) — Twelve members of the Iraqi embassy apparently expelled by the French government boarded a flight Monday for Tunisia, a French news agency reported. The dozen diplomats and their families, 14 people in all, refused to talk to journalists as they arrived at Orly airport, the Agence France-Presse (AFP) news agency reported. Neither the Foreign Ministry nor the Iraqi embassy would comment on the reported expulsion, which was first reported as being planned Saturday. Only Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashemi and four assistants will remain at Iraq's diplomatic mission in the French capital, AFP said, citing the embassy's interpreter. The expelled diplomats were to fly to Tunis and later to fly to Larnaca, Cyprus and then to Amman, AFP reported citing well-informed sources. AFP cited good sources as saying that France is preparing to expel about 30 more Iraqi nationals and citizens of other Middle East countries thought to present a danger to the public. Belgium, Britain, Canada, Greece and Italy have expelled Iraqi nationals judged to be national security threats in the past few days, following the outbreak of war in the Gulf. On Sept. 21, France expelled 11 Iraqi diplomats and about 30 other Iraqis, including military trainees, after Iraqi troops in Kuwait violated the residence of the French ambassador.

Water levels increased

AMMAN (Petra) — Water levels in several dams, particularly in the eastern parts of the country, have increased. The level has also increased at King Talal Dam, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. King Talal Dam was receiving six and a half cubic metres per minute. Dams in the eastern parts of the country are now full of water, following last week's rainfall.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
17:00 News in French
17:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
17:30 News in Hebrew
18:00 News in Arabic
18:30 Charles in Charge
21:10 Life Revolution
22:00 News in English
22:30 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr

CHURCHES

06:30 (Sunrise) Doha

11:47 Dhuhur

14:39 'Asr

17:04 Maghreb

18:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 818171, 654932.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with expected showers rain and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Faysal Al Asmar 890504

Dr. Salah Al 'Usoud 649028

Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 850880

Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 723036

Ferido pharmacy 661912

Al Asma pharmacy 788336

Nisrouk pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 624072

Yacoub pharmacy 636730

Shameel pharmacy 649495

Shameel pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim (—)

Al Sharrak pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 661111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Palestinian officials urge boycott of allied ships and aircraft

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian officials living in Jordan Monday voiced their absolute support for Iraq in the face of American aggression and landed Jordan's stand with regard to the current situation in the Gulf.

In a statement addressed to parliaments of Arab and Islamic countries, these personalities called for backing Iraq's just cause, and for denouncing those countries taking part in the aggression on the Iraqi people.

The statement, which was signed by the speaker of the Palestine National Council,

members of the PLO's executive committee, Palestine ambassador in Jordan and several members of the central committee of Fateh, urged Arab workers to boycott American ships and aircraft and to stop work at oil installations pumping crude to American ships and aircraft. The statement also urged workers to deal in a similar manner with other countries considered hostile to the Arab Nation for their involvement in the aggression on Iraq.

The statement urged Arab and Islamic governments to ex-

tend speedy help to Iraq and urged the masses to exert pressure on their governments which support Washington's aggression to change their position.

The statement condemned the Turkish government's position towards the crisis and Ankara's permission to NATO forces to use Turkish airbases to launch raids on Iraq.

The statement paid tribute to the government and people of Iran for their support of the Iraqi people and demanded quick Islamic moves to end the aggression on Iraq.

Arabiyat asks China, N. Korea to help stop Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Monday sent a cable to the speaker of the Chinese People's Assembly, appealing for support for the Iraqi people who are facing an aggression by the American-led coalition.

The United States and its allies are trying to devastate an Arab country with their modern weapons, killing innocent people and destroying social, economic and scientific centres in violation of all international principles and laws, said Arabiyat in his cable.

We call on you to help stop the aggression immediately and solve the crisis by peaceful means and negotiations, Arabiyat added.

In another cable to the speaker of North Korean parliament, Arabiyat said that the U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iraq were unjust and in violation of all humanitarian principles and laws.

He appealed to North Korea to support the Iraqi people in the face of this aggression and help initiate negotiations for peace.

In both cables, the Speaker of the Lower House said that the NATO alliance is now launching a genocide war on the innocent people of Iraq who are in need of help to fend off this danger.

Jordan, he said, recognises the humanitarian roles played by the Chinese and North Korean people over the years and their keenness on maintaining world security and stability.

He urged the two countries to contribute towards the solution of all the Middle Eastern problems through negotiations and in a just, equitable and peaceful manner.

Arabiyat had earlier sent a cable to His Holiness Pope John Paul II also inviting him to lead efforts designed to attain world peace and security.

Abdul Nasser sees Gulf war as link in chain against Islam

By Caroline Faraj

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The American aggression on Iraq can be described as a war of genocide being committed against the Arab people, their steadfastness and independence and it is a continuation of the numerous massacres committed by the Zionists at Deir Yassin, Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine according to Dr. Khaled Abdul Nasser, son of the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser.

The West is clearly set to stem the expansion of Islam, and the world Zionism is helping out, by striking at Iraq with all forms of weapons as a first step, Khaled Abdul Nasser said in a statement to the Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

The American-led coalition he added, is now waging a war of genocide against the Iraqi people under the pretext of liberating Kuwait and the current American air raids can by no means be considered as representing the spirit of the international legitimacy or the will of the international community.

Khaled Abdul Nasser, who is now employed as a professor of engineering at Cairo University, said the ongoing war of genocide

on Iraq was being waged under the pretext of implementing international legitimacy but in fact it was also a war designed to achieve interests of colonial powers, most importantly oil.

The American-led coalition, he said, was trying hard to break the Arab Nation's will and humiliate the Islamic nations to force them to succumb to the will of the forces of evil and the whims and desires of world Zionism.

Abdul Nasser, who is now facing a trial in Cairo for alleged anti-regime activities in Egypt, said it was most astonishing to hear some Arab states speaking on behalf of Israel and urging it not to get involved in the war that these can be no splits within the coalition arrayed against Iraq.

"I cannot imagine any honourable Arab person who does not condemn the ongoing aggression on Iraq," Abdul Nasser added.

He stressed that people can never be obliterated through aggression as long as their will to resist persists and their faith in God was solid.

The Arabs, he added, have no alternative but to remain steadfast like the Palestinian people who are confronting all forms of atrocities with growing determination. Iraq, he stressed is

now, waging war in defence of the whole Arab Nation and Arab future and for this it deserves all support and assistance.

Meanwhile, a major Muslim fundamentalist group, one of the largest opposition bodies in Egypt, urged President Hosni Mubarak Sunday to quit the anti-Iraq coalition.

It condemned "aggression against the Iraqi people" by the U.S.-led multinational force, in which Egypt has more than 38,500 troops.

In a press statement, the banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood said Egyptian soldiers should leave the alliance now that no danger exists of Iraqi "aggression."

"We call on the president to pull our forces out of the Gulf, especially after the disappearance of all so-called possibilities of an Iraqi attack on (Gulf) countries," the statement said.

Actually, it added, the countries where Egyptian troops are based "have become bases for military forces attacking the Iraqi people."

In its statement, the Muslim Brotherhood said it has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait since it occurred on Aug. 2. Nevertheless, it said, the coalition's attack on Iraq, which began Thursday, was unjustified.

Aqaba transport firm mobilises extra potential

AMMAN (J.T.) — In view of the increased numbers of evacuees converging on Aqaba from Iraq following the outbreak of war, the port authorities and the Arab Maritime Bridge Company are taking measures to ensure full maritime trips by ferry boats commencing between Aqaba and the Sinal port of Nweibeh.

Sabri Kate, company director, said that 5,750 people and 150 vehicles arriving at the sea port in the past five days of conflict have already made the trip home but many others are still trying to leave.

Among the measures taken so far, he said, was the hiring of an additional ferry boat with a capacity of 1,500 passengers and 80 vehicles, which is to be put into use along the maritime route, raising to three the number of ferries being used to carry passengers and their cars and belongings.

Kate said that the two ferries used at present were Sara and Mansoura; and with the addition of the new ferry boat, the total daily capacity of transport between the two ports will be raised to 6,000 passengers and

400 vehicles.

Kate expected large numbers of evacuees to converge on Aqaba in the coming days and for this reason, he said, the company management has now extended the working hours of its staff to keep them on duty for 24 hours, working in shifts.

The one problem facing the company at present is the soaring insurance charges on vessels, making operational costs highly expensive, said Kate.

The increases in insurance charges, he said, have caused fluctuations in the prices of tickets but the company is now doing all it can to stabilise fares.

The influx of evacuees came in the wake of the Jordanian government's decision to re-open the border with Iraq at the Ruweished border post following the start of the American aggression on Iraq last Thursday. The border post had been closed before evacuees because the government had said it could not cope with the situation especially as promised assistance from international organisations was not forthcoming.

identified Palestinian official saying Iraq had 140 mobile launchers "concealed in underground bunkers built in Western Iraq to be used in sporadic barages against Israel."

Al Diyar said Palestinian officials held several meetings with President Saddam Hussein and his top generals before leaving Baghdad recently.

One of them said about 400 Iraqi airplanes were hidden in similar bunkers in the mountains of northeastern Iraq.

He said chemical weapons plants and a medium-size nuclear reactor were "dismantled and concealed in bunkers built specially for such an event in 1984."

The official said eight-to-12 metre deep underground shelters in Kuwait and southern Iraq accommodated 400,000 Iraqi troops, their arms and supplies.

U.S. President George Bush was reported to have endorsed a plan to send allied ground forces on a sweeping flanking move around Iraqi troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq if Iraq does not crack under aerial bombardment.

Newsweek magazine said Sunday the plan was drawn up by General Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander of Operation Desert Storm.

ADU sets up pan-Arab emergency health team

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman based Arab Doctors Union (ADU) Monday announced the birth of a special pan-Arab emergency health committee to support Iraq in the face of the ongoing aggression.

The committee is charged with recruiting and dispatching medical and health teams from various Arab countries to go to Iraq and undertake the treatment of war victims, and also to organise campaigns to collect donations of medicines, medical equipment and blood, according to ADU President Hassan Khreis.

Khreis told a press conference here that the committee has already received initial contributions from popular organisations enabling it to embark on its humanitarian mission.

The committee has already sent the first medical team to Iraq and two more medical teams would be arriving here from Tunis and Algiers soon en route to Baghdad, Khreis said.

This emergency committee, Khreis pointed out, would be in charge of receiving Arab medical teams and facilitating their arrival in Baghdad where their work would be conducted in coordination with the Iraqi health ministry and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

For its part, the health ministry of Jordan together with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) have already voiced

their full support for this noble goal and their willingness to extend all possible assistance to the committee, according to Khreis.

He said that the committee has now contacted various medical organisations and unions in Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen, Germany and other European countries to enlist help, and most of these organisations have expressed readiness to send medical teams to work in Iraqi hospitals.

Dr. Khreis appealed to all local organisations to donate blood and contribute cash and in-kind assistance and medical equipment to enable the committee shoulder its humanitarian tasks.

Addressing the press conference, Mr. Amin Shuqair, secretary-general of the Jordanian people's Committee for Supporting Iraq said that the first batch of Jordanian doctors who arrived in Iraq Monday would determine the actual needs of the Iraqi people and report to the committee.

Fathi Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Red Crescent and Red Cross Committee said that the Palestine Red Cross and Red Crescent Society in Kuwait and all its branches there have been placed at the disposal of the 400,000 Palestinian people, offering them assistance. The Baghdad branch, he said, has also been provided with all medical equipment to offer help to the Iraqi people.

was attacked by three different waves of bombers Sunday afternoon.

Bnt Iraq appeared undaunted in its official pronouncements. It said Monday that it had won the first round in the "mother of battles," and would achieve victory.

"(U.S. President George) Bush's evil dreams have been shattered and scattered in the air together with the wreck of his aircraft and missiles," said Iraqi radio.

"Bush's war on a swift and decisive battle was shattered together with his black dreams," Iraqi's embassy in Tokyo issued a statement which said the Vietnam war will "appear a picnic in comparison with what is in store for them (the United States) in this war."

And Ambassador Rashid Al Rifai warned that the United States should prepare itself for something "more surprising" than the missiles Iraq has already fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia, according to the Japanese news agency Kyodo.

Deputies deplore attack on Iraqi holy sites

Tamimi declares jihad on U.S., allies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Islamic Jihad Monday announced a holy war against the interests of 29 countries involved in the American-led coalition against Iraq.

The head of the group, Islamic Jihad (Beit Al Maqdes), Sheikh Assad Bayoud Al Tamimi was quoted by the French news agency (AFP) as saying that he had issued orders to his organisation to strike at the interests of the 29 countries fighting Iraq alongside the U.S.

Israel, he said, is included in this holy war which entails launching suicidal attacks on their interests, Sheikh Tamimi said in his statement. "In the coming few days, my group will begin painful blows to the Western coalition arrayed against Iraq, and we will not spare any target within our reach," Sheikh Tamimi warned.

In addition to Israel and the Western nations, the order includes Arab and Islamic countries aligned behind the United States.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria will be targets of the group's coming operations, Sheikh Tamimi asserted.

He said that he took the decision soon after he heard Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's call

on the Muslims of the world to declare holy war.

The Beit Al Maqdes Islamic Jihad group had earlier claimed responsibility for attacks in Egypt, the last of which was the attack near the Egyptian-Israeli border.

In another development, the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Monday issued an appeal to the Arab workers to confront and foil the aggression on Iraq and the Arab Nation.

Deputy chairman of the ALO's board of directors, Khalil Abu Khourma, called in a statement on all workers movements in the Non-Aligned Movement countries to confront and abort the American-led aggression on Iraq.

He urged Arab labour unions to respond favourably and enthusiastically to the call for holy war in defence of Arab soil and Arab dignity.

Several members of the Lower House of Parliament Monday denounced aggression waged by the U.S. and its allies on Iraq and Shi'ite holy places there.

The attacks by the Americans and their allies on holy sites in the cities of Najaf and Karbala in Iraq only express U.S. disrespect for the Muslims, the deputies

said in a statement.

They described the aggression as a war against Islam, the Muslims and the Islamic civilisation as a whole.

They appealed to the Arab rulers to support Iraq and to revenge this disgraceful aggression.

Deputy Atef Al Btoush, deputy speaker at the Lower House of Parliament and official spokesman of the independent Islamic Bloc, Sunday issued a statement denouncing the aggression.

He said the U.S. and its allies claimed that their goal was to defend Saudi Arabia and to liberate Kuwait in order to undermine the Arab stand.

"Those Arabs who believed America's claim and sided with it against Iraq did not realise that by attacking Iraq they would only serve Israel's interests," Btoush said.

Btoush called on those Arab leaders to alter their stand and to support Iraq.

He criticised statements by U.S. and other Western diplomats who advocated a new world order for the region.

"They seek a new order in the region to serve their interests for a period of time that will last for

at least one century. That means Israel will remain in the region for another century," he said.

He added that this new order means that the Arabs will only be allowed to develop scientifically and militarily to the limit that Israel and the U.S. would allow.

Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi also issued a statement in which he said "the Israeli-American forces attack on the holy sites in Al Najaf and Karbala show that the attackers are disrespectful for Islam and the Muslims."

Abbadi called on the Iranian people, parliament and government to take revenge for this aggression and called on the Turkish people to deny the U.S. the use of its territory to launch attacks on Iraqi Muslims.

Deputies Mansour Murad and Fakhr Kassar also issued a joint statement condemning the aggression and voicing their confidence in Iraq's capabilities.

Another statement was issued Saturday by the Jordanian Bar Association said the battle Iraq is fighting against the U.S. and its allies is the Arab Nation's battle. The association condemned the stands of the Arab countries who supported the attack on Iraq.

'Third Circle' peace activist prays, fasts for 'no harb'

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "I will keep fasting until they stop killing each other," the 55 year old English literature teacher, Dr. Ellen Rosser said after five days of fasting to protest the war in the Gulf.

Rosser, a member of the World Peace Now Movement was on her way to the peace camp set up on the Kuwait-Saudi border, when news of the war broke out. She then decided to lead her own crusade by fasting and praying to end what she referred to as "the killings of innocent people."

Rosser, who has become a familiar sight as one passes in front of the American embassy on the Third Circle, collapsed Monday morning after five days of fasting. She was rushed to hospital, and released after some

minor examinations. Rosser returned to her usual spot surrounded by bouquets of flowers from people who have befriended her.

"Everyone has been so supportive, I am overwhelmed with gratitude," Rosser told the Jordan Times.

Asked what will happen to her if the war drags on for months, the sun-burned Rosser said "I hope it will not, and I will keep praying until they stop this war."

Rosser showed delight when she was told that her little crusade has taken a spot in world news. "I did not know that. My son called me and said that he has not seen me on television. But if I did appear then I am delighted that someone is listening to me."

She also showed confidence in the effectiveness of the huge demonstrations taking place in cities

all over the United States.

"Eventually all these demonstrations will help in stopping the war. This is how the Vietnam war ended," Rosser said.

Bundled up in a brown suit with gloves and a scarf, Rosser is still carrying her banner calling for American President George Bush to stop the bloodshed in the Gulf. The new addition to her banner is an olive branch she taped to it. "I got this from a friend who took me to her house," Rosser said with a smile.

"On my way out I saw little children and I said to them 'no harb', and they shouted back to me 'no harb, no harb'. I thought that was very nice," Rosser reflected.

This peace activist on a personal crusade is determined to make a change in the world by making her voice heard. She will be joined today at 2:30 p.m. by a

group of volunteers who also want to contribute and make their voices heard.

"It is ever true that who does nothing for others does nothing for himself."

Outside the U.S. embassy, more than 20 doctors and lawyers joined Dr. Rosser.

"I am beginning to get weaker without food every day, but I am surviving," she said.

Lawyer Jalal Abadi, who joined the vigil outside the embassy, said the Bar Association appealed to lawyers worldwide "to stand up for justice in the Arab World."

"There has been a lot of injustice against Iraq," he said. "The United States, which is claiming to defend human rights, has been the first to violate the basic human rights of people in the Middle East."

Refugees describe harrowing raids on Iraqi capital

RUWEISHED, Jordan (R) — "The children were crying all the time — I thought they would die of fear," says Amina Kayed, a Palestinian woman who fled to Jordan from the thunder of U.S. air raids on Baghdad.

"The raids were ferocious," says Amina Saeed. "Any minute, we were feeling the house was going to fall on us. We were reciting prayers from the Koran all the time."

"We used to see such things in American movies but we never thought this could happen in real life," said Saeed, 38, who was squeezed with her husband and eight children into a station wagon.

Escape across the desert to Jordan through the deafening explosions of war was as terrifying as the day-and-night bombing in the Iraqi capital, according to refugees, mainly Jordanians and Palestinians, who reached this isolated border post.

About 700 arrived Sunday, looking exhausted, with dark circles under their eyes after sleepless nights.

Most said they survived their last raid in Rutbah, about 60 kilometres from Jordan, where missiles criss-crossed over their heads.

Kayed said of her last days in the Iraqi capital: "It was hell... the whole sky became red, blue and orange. There was fire all over Baghdad... our house was shaking. Our bodies were shaking."

Pointing at her three-year-old son Bashar, Kayed, 47, said: "He was terrified. He could not sleep. As soon as he hears the screams of the planes he would cling to me screaming 'the planes have come. The planes have come'."

Twelve-year-old Palestinian Samih Jalal, eating his first good meal after a 12-hour drive from Baghdad, said: "I thought something will hit me and I could die any minute."

Mohammad Saeed, 12, said he and his brother ventured out to buy candles on the third day of the raids but were caught by an air raid on the way home.

"There was a big explosion which threw us on the ground. The whole city became red like blood — we stayed flat on the ground for five minutes then we ran home."

"It's horror. It's getting worse and worse each day," CBS television correspondent Mike Kirsch told reporters after crossing into Jordan.

Jordan Valley citizens rush to donate blood

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Blood donation centres in the hospitals of Mu'ath Ben Jabal and Abi Ubeida in the north Jordan Valley district have witnessed a great turnout of people to donate blood.

A great number of people also rushed to the twenty-two voluntary civil defence centres that were set up in the district in response to the call of duty.

North Jordan Valley district's governor Khalaf Mahasneh said that a plan was set up in the district in which a central and subsidiary divisions were formed to work 24 hours a day.

He added that the district was divided into 22 civil defence

areas, in each of which a volunteer doctor and individual volunteers would serve in case of an emergency.

On the other hand, a parliamentary delegation comprising deputies Sultan Al Edwan, Samir Qa'war and Awni Al Bashir Sunday toured several areas in South Shuneh and Deir Alla districts where they inspected food supplies centres and the electric, energy and water situation in the region.

The deputies stressed the role of citizens in developing the agricultural sector and called them to increase their production to the highest level possible in the light of the situation prevailing in the region.

RSS draws study on development of central Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS), commissioned by Salt Development Corporation, has recently completed a study project aiming at preparing an implementation plan for the development of the central business district of the city of Salt.

The project includes a survey of buildings with architectural heritage in the old part of the city, a study of the commercial area from the socio-economic aspect and a review of the laws and regulations governing the preservation of buildings with architectural heritage.

The study defines means to preserve these buildings, classify them according to their historical significance, and restore them as sites of tourism attraction.

It was carried out by a team of RSS architects, civil engineers, economic researchers, as well as Jordanian legal consultants and British experts.

The study was financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The study, to be issued in early 1991, consists of three parts. The first part provides a general outlook on Salt with

regard to architectural, urban, economic and housing aspects, as well as recommendations for the development of the central part of the city.

The second part deals with the plan to be adopted to renovate central Salt, and details some proposed projects to establish a heritage centre in one of the old buildings, and to reuse one of the complexes as a small hotel and restaurant to provide tourist services.

It, further, deals with developing the old market and improving the residential areas. This part also discusses restoration techniques for the renovation and maintenance of old buildings.

The third part contains all surveys, researches, and background materials on which the plan is based.

An international workshop will be held at a later time, and will be attended by various local and foreign institutions and organisations concerned with the restoration and revival of architectural heritage so as to discuss the project and exchange expertise and ideas concerning its implementation.

Arab jurist esteems Jordan's national role

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Jurist Union's Secretary-General Shabbir Malik left Amman for Sana' Monday. During his visit to Jordan, Malik praised Jordan's national endeavours in dealing with issues facing the Arab Nation, and the efforts it exerts to unify Arab ranks.

Malik stressed the firmness of the Iraqi stand in facing the American-Atlantic aggression against the Arab Nation and praised Iraq's high morale despite the brutal attacks against the civilians.

He also refuted the American allegations that will be short and stressed Iraq's ability to stand up to the imperialist aggression against the Arab Nation.

In a press conference held in Amman Sunday, Malik said that the Iraqi leadership has fulfilled its promise of striking Israel if war breaks out.

He added that Arab Jurists Union has called on Arab and Islamic organisations to confront the Zionist coalition, in the Gulf area, which aims at destroying the Arab Nation permanently.

Malik also praised the role of the Jordanian media played in the transposition of information in a truthful and credible manner.

Malik's visit to Jordan was part of a tour to many of the Arab and world countries in order to establish extensive contacts with world jurist organisations with regard to the American-led aggression against Iraq.

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Scheme for ugly war

ONE OF the ominous attributes of the ongoing U.S.-led war against Iraq is the "news management" scheme conducted by President George Bush and his administration officials. The purpose is clear: To have a free hand in how to wage the battles without the constraints imposed on the U.S. administration during the Vietnam war two decades ago. The first thing that the U.S. president made clear at the outset of his mad war against Iraq and its people is that this time around, both U.S. hands would be free to conduct the war as he saw fit. He now remembers that the Vietnam war was executed with one hand tied up — meaning public opinion and the media. The second feature of Bush's war in the Gulf is to clamp down on news and visual pictures of the death and destruction that U.S. carpet bombing is causing Iraqi soldiers and civilians. The hypothesis here is that the depiction of the Vietnam war on television across the world had inhibited Washington from going all the way in their war effort then. So with this kind of "news management" in place, there has been an obvious blackout on the damage to civilian targets in Iraq. There is hardly a whisper about what the continuous U.S. bombing of Baghdad and other urban areas in Iraq has been doing to the Iraqi people. This is in contrast to the fact that when ten or 15 Israelis are injured because of the Iraqi Scud attack a few days ago, all hell and fury broke loose across the U.S. television screens. Even U.S. and other Western pilots captured by Iraq and seen on Iraqi television have been depicted as innocent men just doing their duties when they were shot down. There is in Western circles a clear bias and doctored news dissemination on this Gulf war. Arabs should attempt to neutralise this censorship by airing and screening all they have on the damage wrought by the U.S. and other allied savage bombardment against Iraq.

Objectivity should be difficult to maintain when the other side is making it a sacred duty to lie, deceive and distort. Nevertheless, there should be every effort on our part to bring the truth to the surface. A great deal of our problem with the Americans, and to a lesser extent the Europeans, is that they have largely failed to understand us, and when they did not, their forces bombed some of us, only to hide the truth of what is really happening from their peoples. We tend to know a little about what we are up against. We wish them to know what they themselves are up to and where their leaders are leading their countries.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Why would the United States and its allies which are now waging war on Iraq object to a call by the Lower House of Parliament on all Arabs and Muslims to attack Western interests? asked Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. Jordan's parliament and people had issued urgent appeals to the Western alliance and those nations involved in the American-led coalition against Iraq in reason and dialogue to solve the problem rather than launch war on Iraq, but those appeals went unheeded, the paper noted. Why should the Americans and their allies be terrified by the Jordanian parliament's call on Muslims and Arabs to thwart the American-led invasion and aggression when Arabs and Muslims are being slaughtered by the American bombs? asked the paper again. The representatives of the Jordanian people in parliament have only exercised their right and duty in manifesting the people's dismay and anger over the aggression on their sister Iraq, and they have the right to confront voices in the American Congress and the British Parliament calling for the destruction of the Iraqi people, the paper noted. The American-led coalition should realise that from now on they are bound to face an angry Arab and Muslim nation which would not only launch attacks on Western interests, but would also launch an all-out holy war, said the paper. Al Ra'i said that war against the Americans is now a rightful duty required from every Arab and Muslim in the world.

Al Dustour daily launched a bitter attack on Turkey for what it called the stabbing of its Muslim Iraq in the back and for siding with the aggressors. The paper noted that Turkey has never faced any hostile action from Iraq nor were the Iraqi people ever confronting the Turkish people who they consider as brothers in Islam. Turkey has committed a treacherous act against its Muslim neighbour at a time when millions of Muslims elsewhere in the world are condemning the American aggression on the Iraqi people, the paper said. Turkey's neutral position in the war would have been enough, but it seems that the Turkish president, Turgut Ozal, has opted to back the Americans for the sake of obtaining an additional share of the booty and to get more oil and more financial assistance from the coalition regardless of Islamic principles and norms, the paper noted. It said this is a cheap opportunistic policy on the part of Ankara which has shown its greed for oil and money, and which opened a second front on Iraq to please the aggressors. We condemn Turkey's aggression on an Arab country and we place the blame squarely on the Turkish government and people for allowing this aggression to continue on a Muslim nation, the paper said. Turkey's aggression on its Arab and Muslim neighbour was unprovoked and came to please the American aggressors and to transform Turkey into a platform serving the American interests, and not the Turkish people, the paper added. Turkey's despicable and shameful stand the paper said is strongly condemned by all Arabs and all Muslims in the world.

Bush's growing support among Americans is riding on casualties in the Gulf war

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Gulf war has generated a wave of U.S. public support for President George Bush as he passes the midway point of a four-year term, but his political future rides on the outcome. Despite Bush's adroit diplomacy in organising a Western and Arab alliance underpinned by U.N. authority, political analysts say that if the war turns out badly he could be a one-term president. Initially, the decision to go to war has revived his popularity, which had started to erode as domestic problems, centring on mounting budget deficits, increased.

New surveys taken since U.S.-led air raids against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait began last week found overwhelming support for

Bush. A joint CBS News-New York Times poll found Bush with an 84 per cent approval rating. Only nine per cent of Americans disapproved of his performance.

Asked if they were proud of what the United States was doing in the Gulf, 74 per cent of those polled said yes and 17 per cent said no.

An ABC News poll found 83 per cent of Americans backed the U.S.-led attack against Iraq, with 62 per cent of them expressing strong support.

"Americans traditionally rally around their president at time like these," said a White House official. "We're grateful for that."

Bruce Buchanan, a professor at the University of Texas who specialises in the U.S. presidency, said Bush has his work ahead of him despite the current level of public support.

Bush is "entering into a phase of the process now where maintaining that support is going to be a big problem and will be contingent upon the nature of what happens."

'Saddam Hussein does not need to win the war, he doesn't need to win the battles. All he has to do is keep this war going and to create casualties... over a period of time. Then you're going to see an erosion of support for the war.'

Buchanan said. "The longer it drags out, the harder it will be to maintain support," he said. "The quicker he gets it over the sooner he'll be perceived as a big winner."

Bush, a Republican, marked

the midway point of his four-year term on Sunday. He is expected to seek a second term in 1992 and undoubtedly the Gulf war will be a campaign issue.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley, the highest-ranking elected Democrat, said on Sunday, "the country is enormously proud of our forces in the region, their performance, their courage, their professionalism."

"As is typical of when the United States goes to war, the country rallies around the commander-in-chief and the forces to see that they have the victory as soon as possible and that peace can come as soon as possible," Foley said on the CNN programme "Newsmakers Sunday."

Asked about the possibility of Bush's support evaporating in a prolonged war, Foley said, "it's not going to be a war of the dimension in time of Vietnam, and so I don't think we'll have the kinds of pressures that grew after Vietnam seemed an endless effort."

Congressman Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, said public support for Operation Desert Storm "depends almost entirely... on the casualties."

"Saddam Hussein does not need to win the war, he doesn't

need to win the battles. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, said on the NBC programme "Meet the Press."

"All he has to do is keep the war going and to create casualties... over a period of time. Then you're going to see an erosion of support for the war," he said.

Congressman Stephen Solarz, a New York Democrat who helped lead the campaign to give Bush congressional authority to go to war in the Gulf, agreed on the same programme that "the longer the war lasts and the greater the casualties are, the more opposition there will be."

But he said if chemical or biological weapons were used against U.S. troops, "the American people will be so enraged that it will guarantee American support for this undertaking no matter how long it takes."

Ramstein awaits the wounded

By Greg Calhoun
Reuter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Far from the heat and sand of the Gulf, U.S. military nurses pulled fresh bed sheets over air-mattress cots and got the pillows ready.

Next came the medics, hanging blank progress charts at the foot of every cot set up in this aircraft hanger turned hospital in the low hills of Western Germany.

Now the grim staff at Ramstein air base are waiting for the wounded from the Gulf war they hoped would never come.

"Everyone is praying this will not happen," said Colonel Thomas Vernon, commander of the Landstuhl Hospital. "But if it is going to happen our job is to give the best care possible."

About two kilometres away, Landstuhl Army Medical Centre, the U.S. army's largest hospital in Europe, was preparing to convert its nursery into an intensive care burn centre.

"I cannot think of anything we are not prepared to deal with," said Lisa Floyd, a flight nurse from South Carolina.

As reports from the war dominated radios and television news running non-stop at U.S. bases here, military forces grimly made final preparations to receive the hundreds and perhaps thousands of wounded who could come through here.

Landstuhl medical centre is expected to take in a major percentage of wounded troops evacuated to Europe, the first line of back-up care after the field clinics and hospital ships in the Gulf.

Since August it has added about 1,000 recently activated reservists to its staff of 2,000.

The 250-bed temporary hospital in the Ramstein Air Base hanger will handle patients who need stabilising while awaiting a bed and treatment in the regular hospital.

The U.S. military has four main hospitals in Germany — in Landstuhl, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt and Nuremberg —

with a peacetime bed capacity of 800.

Military personnel here told reporters they were well equipped to handle the expected flow of wounded should the heavy fighting start.

"We're prepared to take in the first patients within six to eight hours of the time we hear about a startup of hostilities," said Assistant Hospital Commander Colonel Eric Schoemaker.

Vernon said the Landstuhl hospital could handle almost any medical emergency expected to result from Gulf combat.

But he conceded a drawn-out war could strain medical facilities here. "Sure we can be overwhelmed, but we have contingency plans."

As part of those plans, U.S. officials have asked German hospitals to begin preparing to help them cope with any big wave of wounded.

"Our hospital initially would send family member patients and local military patients who need care to the German hospitals if our hospital became

too busy with Gulf patients," said Staff Sergeant Robert Fortenberry at Wiesbaden's air force medical centre.

Bavarian Social Welfare Minister Gebhard Glueck said on Wednesday he had asked hospitals in his southern German state to see how many beds they could provide for U.S. soldiers.

He said contingency plans would only be activated if all beds in U.S. and German military hospitals were full.

The atmosphere at Landstuhl Hospital and the airbase was clearly depressed when reporters visited.

"We read the papers and listen to the news reports and we talk about them just like the civilian population. We are not optimistic," said Major Paula Kongeas, a press officer at Ramstein Air Base.

"This time last year peace had broken out in Europe and we were all talking about going home... I think all of us are asking 'how did it all happen so fast?'"

Gen. Shomron told Israel Television.

"Despite the enormous effort the Americans are making in this area, there are still mobile launchers that are hidden and from time to time, a number of missiles are launched."

Many Israelis started back to work Monday carrying brown cardboard boxes containing a gas mask, chemical burn powder and a syringe of nerve gas antidote.

Mr. Eagleburger arrived on Sunday for the second time in nine days to assure Israel the allies were doing their best to wipe out the Scud launchers and to urge Israeli restraint.

"This period has been marked by constant and intensive consultations between our governments. President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir have talked with each other often and intimately during these critical days," Eagleburger said.

Gen. Shomron, echoing U.S. military commanders, cautioned Israelis against expecting a swift end to the conflict.

"This war will not be short," he said.

A telephone poll conducted among 500 Israelis showed 91 per cent backed restraint, the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported. It said eight per cent urged retaliation. It did not list the opinion of the other one per cent or give a margin of error.

Yedioth Ahronoth said "Eagleburger was expected to remain in the country for some time coordinating policy. Mr. Shamir said Sunday that President Bush had told him to regard Mr. Eagleburger as the president's own personal emissary."

Syria charged Monday that Iraqi missile attacks against Israel have served its interests by triggering a new flow of arms to the Jewish state.

"As a result of the theatrical missiles with which the Iraqi regime attacked the cities of the enemy, causing more noise than damage, Israel has acquired Patriot missiles... adding to its arsenal new and advanced weapons which it will one day use against Arabs," warned the daily Tishrin.

The government-run paper added in its front-page political analysis that Iraq's "theatrical threats" against Israel have given the Jewish state "all the justifications and excuses... to exert more aid" from the United States.

Eagleburger

(Continued from page 1)

warheads, despite the rapid deployment of Patriots.

"It appears that Iraq possesses the capability to employ chemical warheads," said Yaacov Lapidot, an adviser on civil defence to Defence Minister Arens.

A few hours earlier Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shmiron told Israelis to expect more attacks even though the Patriot anti-missile batteries were on alert and U.S. and allied bombers were destroying Scud missile launchers in Iraq.

"We will have to live with this threat for an additional period,"

LETTERS

Not all Europeans for war

The following is an open letter from citizens of the European Community to their governments and to the European Parliament concerning the Gulf crisis.

THE Women of the European Community whose names follow, energetically protest against the lies expressed by some European governments and the media which would like us to believe that all citizens condone the military measures taken in retaliation for the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. While we do not question the right of the Kuwaiti people to self-determination and protection under international law, we refuse to accept the claim by some countries that they are the "guardians" of international order. We would like to point out that these rights and laws were not respected in the past when Israel and Syria invaded Lebanon, when China occupied Tibet, when the USA invaded Vietnam, Panama and Grenada, when the USSR occupied Afghanistan, when Turkey occupied Cyprus, nor when Israel invaded the West Bank and the Gaza strip. We conclude that the current military intervention in the Gulf is motivated by the desire for a continued source of cheap oil for the USA and Europe, not to protect the rights of the Kuwaiti people. In reality, however, this intervention will only make the situation worse and place the lives of innocent hostages in danger. Instead, international law founded on justice can only be upheld if three conditions are met:

When all aspects related to the Gulf crisis are understood: for example how armaments are produced and sold and how the revenues from oil are divided amongst the Arab countries.

When the rights of all people to self-determination are realised through the acquisition of an economic and political democracy and a democratic press.

When people involved at all levels with the Gulf crisis are consulted concerning these interests and when they are able to negotiate at regional and/or international conferences.

For the present time, we are urging the European countries involved in the war to immediately withdraw from the Gulf and instead of supporting the USA, to play a role as mediators in favour of a negotiated solution for the Middle-East crisis. Europe must define its own position without unconditional allegiance to the USA.

To reach this goal, the undersigned European women request from the government of the 13 European countries and the European Parliament that two simultaneous conferences be held with equal representation of men and women.

The first, comprising officials from European and Middle-East countries.

Simultaneously the second, comprising citizens from the above countries. The latter should be funded by the European governments and the European Community.

To Perez de Cuellar

The following letter was sent Saturday by Mr. Jaafar Al Shami, member of the Upper House of Parliament to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar:

I have observed your behaviour since the start of the Gulf crisis and your approach towards the consecutive resolutions adopted by the Security Council against Iraq. Regrettably, these resolutions were issued as a result of American pressure exerted on some Third World members of the Security Council by buying their vote with billions of dollars paid by the Gulf states. It was the same case even with the Soviet Union.

Iraq's initiative, made on Aug. 12, 1990, for a comprehensive discussion on all problems plaguing the Middle East and for the equitable implementation of all resolutions of the Security Council on the region was welcomed by all whose conscience is alive in this world because justice and equality cannot be achieved without international legitimacy.

But the great U.S. and the little U.S. (Israel) rejected this call and refused any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. Unfortunately, they were supported by others, including the European states on whom we had pinned hopes of adopting and following an honourable stand rather than the position of a slave or follower as is the case today.

We know your history and appreciate your efficiency. We know that you are a man of good conscience. We know that you were elected as secretary general with the conviction that you would work towards serving justice and equality and seek the best means to resolve world problems through peaceful means.

I regret very much that I have to convey to you that the ongoing current of injustice has swept you in its tide and that your moves were limited and directed by American orders, including your last trip to Baghdad after meeting President George Bush. I regret that I have to say it but the impression that one gets is that you have almost become a repeating machine for President Bush on the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait in implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf issue.

I observed you yesterday telling journalists that you are pained by the developments in the Gulf crisis and that the solution is face expression said something else. Your face expressions dissatisfied. Then why don't you resign to protest against injustice and to make your conscience and the consciences of others who love and respect you relax by seeing you proving that you have not been bought.

Senator Jaafar Al Shami
Amman

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

damages that might have been caused by the allied air assaults on Iraqi installations.

The Crown Prince, in an interview with David Frost of British TVAM on Sunday, specifically referred to this issue. Nothing that over 40,000 tonnes of explosives had been used in the allied assaults until then, he asked: "Damage to nuclear facilities: Have they resulted in radiation? Damage to chemical facilities: Have they resulted in seepage?"

The King had repeatedly warned of an "ecological disaster and catastrophe" in the war. U.S. officials have said air assaults on Iraq during Sunday damaged what they described as nuclear and chemical installations. In the absence of definite information coming out of Baghdad, it was difficult to verify the accuracy of the assertion.

Pacts

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq since July 17, 1968, regardless of their contents and nature, including the joint non-aggression pact."

That was a reference to a 1989 accord signed by the two governments in which the two countries pledged to refrain from the use of force against each other.

July 17, 1968, is when the Arab Baath Socialist Party seized power in Iraq under Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr. He turned over power to President Saddam 11 years later, citing health reasons.

The RCC statement said the abrogation of the accords "takes effect immediately."

It attributed the move to "the violation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the numerous agreements and treaties between the two countries, especially those related to sovereignty, the rights of two peoples and non-aggression and use of force against each other."

It said: "The government of Saudi Arabia violated these accords by inflicting enormous economic losses on Iraq and then joining the treacherous military aggression which was launched by the United States, the Zionists and their allied Atlantic forces."

Iraq had accused Saudi Arabia of plotting with the United States and Kuwait to undermine Baghdad's economy in recent

years. It said the Riyadh government and Kuwait were pressing for repayment of a \$30 billion loan extended to Baghdad during its 1980-88 Gulf war and flooding the world market with oil to drive down crude prices.

Iraq was depending on oil revenues to rebuild its economy that had been shattered by the war against Iran. The economic pressure on Baghdad was one of the reasons that prompted it to invade Kuwait on Aug. 2, touching off the Gulf conflict.

Deterrent

(Continued from page 1)

was summoned to the State Department for a formal protest about the handling of prisoners.

It was the second time in three days that Khalid J. Shewayish, deputy chief of mission at the Iraqi embassy, was called into the State Department to discuss prisoners.

"The Department of State reminded Iraq that the mistreatment of PoWs is a war crime," the department said in a brief statement. "The United States demanded full Iraqi compliance with the convention and requested immediate access for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to any PoWs held by Iraq."

In Geneva, the ICRC said Iraq's decision to show PoWs on television and move them to target areas is a clear violation of humanitarian law.

Britain called in the Iraqi ambassador to London to protest at the Iraqi move of prisoners of war as "human shields" in Iraq.

A spokesman said Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg summoned Ambassador Azmi Shafiq Al Salhi to remind him of Iraq's obligations to treat allied prisoners correctly.

The Foreign Office said Britain was holding as PoWs two Iraqis after finding that they were military personnel. It said they were being held in Britain, but gave no details.

They were among 72 Iraqi citizens rounded up on security grounds before the war broke out. They could not be deported because the outbreak of hostilities made repatriation impossible.

In Paris, Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashemi was summoned to receive a formal Foreign Ministry protest over Baghdad's treatment of PoWs.

Linkage: From wheelchairs to Awacs, a background to Armageddon

By Paul William Roberts

WHEN an ailing President Roosevelt met with an ailing King Ibn Saud, ruler of Saudi Arabia, at the end of World War II, gifts were exchanged. The president received jewels, ornate gold ceremonial daggers, and such; the king got an airplane from the American government, complete with one year's loan of a TWA crew. But what he most wanted was a wheelchair just like Roosevelt's. Chairs of any kind were then a novelty in the feudal desert kingdom, and chairs with wheels — as soon as the aged monarch possessed the only one in his land — became rapidly perceived as status symbols. Roles were exchanged, and the king's son, Prince Saud, took great delight in cranking up and down the runways of the world's largest airport, built by the US Army Corps of Engineers at Dhahran, designed to serve the colossal complex of construction zones for oil wells, refineries, pipelines, and massive tanker wharves. It was really political mileage Ibn Saud was trying to chalk up in his wheelchair.

Besides oil — then still newly discovered and a recent potential target for the Nazi's desert armies — the two leaders discussed another issue on board the USN Destroyer Quaker. Roosevelt explained what had been happening to European Jewry during Hitler's regime, ending his account of the atrocities by saying the allies wanted to create a Jewish state in Palestine so the Jews need never fear such persecution would happen again. King Ibn Saud listened patiently, and was by all accounts appropriately saddened by what he heard. Then he replied that among his people, if such an abomination occurred, the victims would be granted the best possessions of those who had oppressed them. Give the Jews Germany, Ibn Saud suggested, gravely serious. Why make Palestine pay for the crimes of others?

The two old men liked and respected each other, but the tribal monarch had no understanding of modern American politics. He took Roosevelt's reassurances regarding the issues under discussion as the solemn words of a man who spoke for his country. Before long, however, that man was dead and Harry S. Truman became president. Roosevelt had no right to make the promises he'd made to Ibn Saud, it's true, but Truman, gearing up for his 1947 election campaign, still vacillated between his support for a Jewish state in Palestine, on one hand, and besieged by the oil lobby and the new Defence Department, as well as the State Department — his option of honouring Roosevelt's commitment to the Saudis on the other.

Meanwhile, Palestine had descended into rampaging chaos. Muslim militia sniped from minarets, attacked British convoys and the convoys of Jewish refugees. Many of these refugees had no desire to survive on a hazy island only to perish in another. The Jewish European bomb squads — especially those personally directed by a terrorist leader named Menachem Begin — swiftly gained notoriety for their ability to manufacture hideously lethal bombs from virtually any material available. Large metal milk urns were a favourite. Packed with explosives and detonated in tensing buses, these devices blasted jagged shards out like flying chainsaws into crowds of Muslim women and children, scattering severed legs, heads and torsos for hundreds of metres.

Also that same year, across the Atlantic, the General Assembly of the United Nations met in somewhat sepulchral temporary quarters to hear the final report of the U.S. Special Commission on Palestine. "The claims to Palestine of the Arabs and Jews," the commission noted, "are incommensurable." The basic conflict in Palestine is a clash between two intense nationalisms ... Jewish immigration is the central issue in Palestine today and is the one factor, above all others, that rules out the necessary cooperation between the Arab and Jewish communities in a

single state." The serpent, fully formed, could even then be seen in its egg. Yet Truman's administration had jumped off the fence, cranking up its advocacy of the Zionist cause. Presidential papers from the period describe "high pressure being exerted by Jewish agencies. There have been indications of bribes and threats by these groups. In the case of Liberia, certain groups have informed the Liberian delegation that if they do not go along, the (U.S. economic aid) pact with Liberia will be cancelled." (Quoted in Robert J. Donovan, *Conflict and Crisis: The Presidency of Harry S. Truman, 1945-1948*; New York: Norton, 1977; p. 330).

At Lake Success on Long Island, in November 1947, the 57 nations that then made up the United Nations held a final vote on the question of who should ultimately control Palestine. Minor and client states found themselves under intense pressure to back Truman and the Zionists. Even France wasn't certain what message to send its Islamic colonies until it was made clear that the chances of further aid from Washington might be affected by its vote.

After the ballots had been cast and counted, 33 nations favoured the Jewish European state, 13 opposed it. There were 10 abstentions, and one voter was absent. Needing a two-thirds vote, the Zionists thus won by a mere one-vote margin. In true British-Colonial twilight fashion, Palestine was to be divided in half — Europeans here, native inhabitants there.

When the result was announced, six Muslim delegations — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon — silently rose and left the assembly. Only King Faisal came. Ibn Saud's successor to the Arabian throne gave a statement on the U.N. vote. Through a translator, he delivered just two terse sentences. Though couched in traditional Arabic courtesy and diplomatic jargon, what he was saying was clear enough: One day I'll get even for this.

The U.S.A., of course, went on to develop and nurture its "special relationship" with Israel; the Jewish-Israeli lobby in Washington rapidly grew in a strength that many viewed as undermining the democratic process itself, a blind eye was turned to Israel's increasingly harsh treatment of "Palestinian" and "Arab" world came to feel increasingly marginalised at the hands of the West. In 1948, the Arab League was formed, ostensibly from fear of Israeli expansionism. In 1952, Nasser threw off the shackles of colonialism for ever, giving Egypt back to the Egyptians after more than 2,000 years of foreign domination. The shock waves were felt all over the Middle East and North Africa as the whole Arab World became obsessed with ridding itself of the last vestiges of colonialism and all its trappings, making Nasser their Caliph, or symbolic leader. The focus of this struggle came to rest increasingly on Israel, which, as is rarely pointed out, represented and still represents nothing so much as a European colony to Arab eyes, an anachronistic island in a hostile sea of Islamic nationalism. Anti-Semitism is, of course, a meaningless term in Arabic; it wasn't Jews that the Arabs states feared and despised — it was Europeans. And the Israelis began to behave more like 19th century colonialists than inhabitants of a tiny Middle Eastern state.

Islamic fundamentalism, which had begun as a reaction to the cultural threat of 19th century colonialism, also flourished again in

the face of American neo-imperialism. The Wahhabite Saudis had been the original fundamentalists — converted some hundred years ago by a charismatic Calvinist-like Muslim reformer — and now, as guardians of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, they began to resent increasingly the appropriation of the third holiest Islamic site — Jerusalem. The arbitrary territorial divisions drawn up by the British in the heady but cunning days of empire were being torn at the edges — as they were in India and elsewhere. Divide and rule had been both the entree to and exit from empire. The Americans had yet to apply the technique, but they were learning fast as they became the only nation ever to acquire an empire by invitation.

Only one factor prevented the European Israelis and the parvenu Americans from becoming masters of the Middle East — oil.

In 1956, America produced 48 per cent of all the free world's oil. In 1969, it produced less than 26 per cent. Demand for the black gold grew exponentially throughout the western industrial nations throughout the sixties. It was an addiction whose consequences never seem to have occurred to those enslaved by it — though to the Texas oil barons, for example, the profit potential in this burgeoning border of addiction became very real indeed. It also became increasingly tricky. After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Texan oilmen have never been far from the reins of power in Washington.

After a stunning victory in the 1967, the Israelis emerged more potent than ever. Not only did they now control Muslim Jerusalem, they embarked on the gradual process of transforming the ancient city into their modern capital, seizing Arab homes, using state police to control access to Islamic shrines. Flushed with power and newfound pride, Israel also set about creating a nuclear arsenal that would guarantee her continued supremacy in the whole Middle East. And with this, talk of "Eretz Israel" — the four thousand year old fantasy of a land stretching from the Euphrates to the Red Sea — began in earnest. Despite a United Nations resolution demanding a return to the original borders, it was clear Israel had no intention of giving up the occupied Arab territories — let alone the third most sacred Islamic city, now totally under Israeli control. All the while, of course, American aid, money from Jews around the world, and U.S. high-tech weaponry poured in to encourage this arrogance and its further expansionist dreams.

Twenty years ago, to a young army officer like Saddam Hussein in Iraq, all this looked much like yet another phase of Western colonialism; and to an old tribal chieftain like King Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud, it looked more like a reprise of the Crusades.

On Oct. 17, 1973, eleven days into another Arab-Israeli war, the aged king stood on the sidewalk in front of a conference centre in Kuwait, drew an ornate sword from its scabbard and, raising the gleaming weapon to a fierce blye sky, announced that he intended to hold the people of America responsible for Israel's continued occupation of Jerusalem. It had been decided, he proclaimed, to "unleash the sword of oil."

Thus began a debilitating oil embargo that sent Western economies into a tailspin and had Henry Kissinger flitting around the world in search of diplomatic support to find a resolution to this potentially disastrous problem. The "sword of oil" hung more like the sword of Damocles over the head of industrial capitalism. Drastic promises were made in the Arabs and even greater concessions were scheduled for discussion. But something else was also happening that

hectic October. The 1973 war was not remotely like its 1947 predecessor. The Arabs were better trained, better equipped, and strategically more sophisticated by far. Egyptian Chief of Staff Major General Saad Al Shazly recorded that "... in 24 hours we had put across the (Suez) canal 100,000 men, 1,020 tanks, and 13,500 vehicles — the largest first day crossing in military history." In his memoirs, Richard Nixon "was stunned by the failure of Israeli intelligence ..." By the third day, Israel had lost 1,000 men — compared to less than 700 in the whole 67 war — and was close to losing a third of its tank force.

Reporting to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defence Minister Moshe Dayan said he felt it was time to discuss conditions for a surrender. Golda Meir was in tears, announcing she would rather commit suicide than surrender. She then ordered preparations for a nuclear Masada, an ultimate holocaust that would destroy the entire Middle East, its oil, its holy cities, everything. According to *Time* magazine, "Israel's 13 (atomic) bombs were hastily assembled ..."

By the terms of a treaty they'd signed, the Soviets agreed to supply Egypt with nuclear weapons to defend itself, and a ship set off from the Black Sea port of Odessa through the Bosphorus Straits, heading for Alexandria with an escort of nuclear submarines and its cargo of atomic warheads that could be attached to the long-range Scud missiles already based in Egypt.

Having just promised the Saudis it would no longer supply Israel with advanced war machinery, Washington faced a difficult decision. Both Israeli and Soviet nuclear arsenals had been detected by sensors in the ultra-high-tech U.S. Blackbird spy plane. In order to avert Armageddon, the Americans dispatched a non-stop three day sky train of sophisticated weaponry to Israel. By October 24, the Israelis had all but vanquished the Egyptians and only Soviet Premier Brezhnev's call for an immediate ceasefire prevented President Anwar Sadat from unleashing his newly-acquired nuclear missiles. It was that close.

Israel's intentions, however, had always been clear. Referring to the man who was Israel's defence minister in 1973, former Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett wrote in his diary back to 1956, "Dayan's words are clear ... (Israel) must calculate its steps accordingly and live by the sword. It must see the sword as the main and only instrument with which to keep its morale high. And above all, let us hope for a new war with the Arab countries, so that we may finally find our space." (Diary reprint excerpts: Livia Rokach, *Israel's Sacred Terrorism*; Belmont, Mass.: Association of Arab-American University Graduates; 1980).

But for Israel, the 1973 war was to be a pyrrhic victory. Exactly eight years later, on October 28, 1981, the Jewish-Israeli lobby in Washington was stunned to find the U.S. Senate voting 52-48 — in favour of settling Saudi Arabia the most advanced piece of war machinery it had for sale. The AWACS — Airborne Warning and Control Systems — could track 600 different targets in the air, on land or across water simultaneously, and could launch and target for destruction 240 objects simul-

taneously. In combination with the state-of-the-art F-15 Eagle fighter jet, the AWACS virtually reduced warfare to a massive video game — and an easy one at that. Israel will probably not be winning any more wars against the Arabs if the Arab in question include Saudis. What caused such a drastic shift in policy from Washington?

The answer is not so simple as oil, yet, considering the British role model being followed — divide and rule — it's not so complex either. It also certainly explains the current crisis, with its curious so-called "coalition" of Arab states and sundry interested nations allied against Iraq after Saddam Hussein's adventure in Kuwait.

Between 1973 and 1981, events in the Middle East came fast and furious. Indeed, the whole area became synonymous with the term "crisis" — just as the word "Muslim" virtually became synonymous with "fanatic." But, from Libya to Iran, each successive "crisis" linked itself to Israel's occupation of Jerusalem and the whole Palestinian "problem." After the Iranians ousted the feudal despot who had been America's best friend in the area, founding an Islamic state to be run on strict fundamentalist lines, Iraq was encouraged to embark on a long, bloody, senseless and inconclusive war with Iran that was part punishment for seizing American hostages and part deliberate attempt to defend both countries involved — divide and weaken. Both sides were being supplied with American arms, directly and indirectly. It wasn't the first time Iraq had been targeted for a spot of weakening either. The growing strength of the Iraqi armed forces had worried the shah of Iran — well-equipped by American technology though he was — and a covert agreement to stir up the age-old territorial claim of the Kurds emerged as the simple solution at that time. The CIA supplied the Kurds with enough armaments to keep the Iraqi forces busy — though not enough to actually win anything. George Bush happened to run the CIA in those days, although one likes to presume it wasn't his intention that Iraq try out chemical weapons on the Kurds rather than just spend years shooting at them. The Kurdish revolt stopped as abruptly after the poisonous gas started falling as the war in the Pacific did after President Truman tried out his new toys on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Iran and Iraq fought more conventionally, though a generation of young men from both nations perished over the years the conflict lasted. One incident during the war did, however, seem somewhat uncharacteristic. On Sept. 30, 1980, two Phantom jets of the kind America had supplied to both Israel and Iran attacked the newly-completed nuclear reactor in Baghdad. Eye-witnesses claimed the planes bore Iranian markings, but Iran, which had been claiming credit for any and every attack in the lower war zone, denied any of its planes had been near the reactor. Damage to the plant, however, was slight, and the reactor was in operation after three months.

In April 1981, a group of "unidentified men" were caught attempting to break into the reactor compound. Iraqi officials have never released any more details of this incident. But in June that year, according to the London Sunday Times, Israeli agents disguised as French nuclear technicians managed to penetrate the subterranean area of the reactor complex, plant explosives and leave undetected. A little later six Israeli

F-15s and eight F-16s roared over Baghdad, dumping waves of bombs on the reactor, demolishing the upper level. The explosives planted in the underground labyrinth completed the utter destruction of the reactor. For good measure, the Israelis also dropped a number of delayed-action devices, designed to lie in the rubble and explode the moment anyone touched them.

Ten days later, at Damascus, military, scientific, and government officials from eleven Arab states opened the first Arab Nuclear Conference, which was sponsored by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. The main topic of discussion was how to construct an Islamic atomic weapon; and the ecocriticism reached, according to *The Islamic Review*, was "that there are no technical barriers to (building) the bomb," but "... even so, the nuclear option (was) not an easy one."

In October of that same year, the Saudis received their AWACS. If the Israelis and Egyptians were willing to devastate the oil fields with atomic weapons, the Saudis were not. Oil was the sole source of their power and wealth, and in this they had much in common with the Western industrial nations. Throughout the seventies, Saudi Princes had been educated in the U.S., while their government put together the lobby group that would compete with the Jewish lobbyists on equal terms. The Reagan administration also had a number of people to it who had close ties to the giant Bechtel Corporation, one of the largest contractors in Saudi Arabia and many other Muslim nations, and a leading proponent of Arab causes for many years. President-elect Reagan's choices for secretary of state were narrowed down to two men: George Shultz and Alexander Haig. Shultz bowed out of the race after publicly disagreeing with a speech in which Reagan pledged continuing support for Israel. A victim of the Jewish lobby and congressmen who relied heavily on Jewish voting blocs, Shultz's position went to Haig, a stridently pro-Israel hawk.

Shultz was immediately promoted from vice-president to president of Bechtel. Reagan's secretary of defence was Casper Weinberger, who had previously worked under Shultz as chief counsel of Bechtel. When Alexander Haig's unflinching support of Israel led first to the bombing of the Iraqi reactor, annexing Syria's Golan Heights, bombing and strafing densely populated Palestinian refugee camps right across southern Lebanon, and then on to Menachem Begin's full-scale invasion of Lebanon and siege of Beirut in June 1982, Reagan dispatched not his secretary of state to the Middle East — as Begin had requested — but Philip Habib, a retired official from the State Department who had been employed by Bechtel since 1978. Haig soon billed himself as "Israel's only friend in Washington" and swiftly found himself at odds with virtually every other Reagan policy-maker. Behind his back, secret meetings between the Saudi ambassador

and National Security Advisor Clark were held, one meeting even including Nancy Reagan and the Saudi ambassador's wife. While Haig was openly supporting the Israeli siege, his president's wife found herself deeply shocked by accounts of Israeli atrocities against old people, women and children. Before long, Reagan called Haig into the Oval Office and informed him his resignation had been accepted. Since Haig had not submitted a resignation, we can assume he was fired. George Shultz, president of Bechtel, was immediately named as the new secretary of state.

During his confirmation hearings before Congress, Shultz pointed out that "... the crisis in Lebanon makes painfully and totally clear a central reality of the Middle East: the legitimate needs and problems of the Palestinian people must be addressed and resolved — urgently and in all their dimensions." "... A central reality of the Middle East." Within twenty-four hours, a full Senate confirmed Shultz by unanimous vote.

Now, the White House is occupied by a Texan deeply connected to oil men, oil interests, and the CIA — all natural allies of the Saudis, all concerned with economic expediency rather than human lives.

When I interviewed Boutros Boutros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, last May, he described the Arab World as an archipelago, islands separated by an ocean of sand. He'd written a book on Arab disputes some years ago, counting 22 since 1948, but was quick to point out how briefly most of them tended to last. Egypt had just repaired its own rift — caused by the Sadat-Begin peace treaty — and was attempting to resume its old role as Arab leader. But President Mubarak was no Nasser, and times had changed. On the streets of Cairo people talked increasingly of Saddam Hussein as that leader — because to lead the Arab World you had to stand up to Israel and Saddam seemed poised to do just that. "You must remember," Boutros-Ghali said, "that Israel has already attacked Iraq." A strong rumour was also going around Egyptian political circles that Iraq now possessed a nuclear weapon. It was no coincidence that the Arab summit was about to be held in Baghdad. Two months before he invaded Kuwait — something the Americans had once assured him they would not interfere with — I asked Saddam Hussein, during the Arab summit, if he saw himself as a second Nasser. "No," he replied. "I am a first Saddam."

During the Islamic conference held in Baghdad on Jan. 11 this year, a bearded mullah rose from his seat and loudly praised Saddam, calling him the new Salah Al Din, Saladin, the remembrer, the third Crusade, driving the infidels from the holy city of Jerusalem. A jihad is more

than just a holy war, it is almost a celestial command that takes precedence over all else in a Muslim's life. The jihad Saddam has declared is the same one announced by King Faisal in Kuwait 18 years ago. Whatever the result of the current crisis, that jihad still stands, linking all Middle Eastern politics to the liberation of Jerusalem and the increasingly tragic and desperate needs of the Palestinian people. The Saudi rulers, in calling Americans to protect them — and therefore the holy cities they are supposed to protect themselves — are walking a precarious path between greed and religious duty. In the eyes of many ordinary Muslims they have lost the right to rule struggling to retain the right to be rich. Poor Arabs — many of whom have worked for slave wages in Kuwait and Saudi — generally despise the rulers of those countries for their greed, indolence, and reluctance to share their wealth with their brother Muslims. Israel and America are blamed for their corrupting influence. No result in the current crisis will benefit either country or the Saudi. The genie is out of the bottle.

If George Shultz and the U.S. Senate could agree that the Palestinian problem is the "central reality in the Middle East," and if even Israel's David Levy can admit there is a "psychological linkage" now between Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the Palestinian question, why does George Bush, the man who set up the Kurds to be slaughtered, refuse to acknowledge any linkage whatsoever? Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz did bring something to the negotiating table in Geneva on Jan. 9 — an agreement to withdraw from Kuwait if America promised to stage a peace conference to examine all Middle Eastern problems. He also expressed Iraq's willingness to participate in a total ban on all weapons of mass destruction in the area. Secretary of State James Baker thought only a threatening letter. It was Israel that very clearly wiped out the entire Middle East in 1973, attacked Iraq in 1981, and invaded Lebanon in 1982 — besides ignoring two U.N. resolutions to return the occupied Arab territories, including the sacred Islamic sites in Jerusalem. While Arabs do not approve of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait, the deed hardly merits comparison to Israel's hostile adventures.

A deadly game of double standards is most certainly being played, and played at the expense of poor Arab nations that see, in President Mubarak's words, a "new iron curtain coming down between the North and the South." As this brief glimpse of the historical realities behind the current situation shows, I hope, the move towards independence from the West, with its centuries of heartless exploitation of weaker nations, is an Arab juggernaut that cannot be halted for long. The international plutocrats that make up George Bush's "new world order" seem unable to be read the writing on the wall. Those who fight for their beliefs have always eventually overcome those whose motivations are merely greed and self-interest. This business of failing to learn the lessons of history and thus being doomed to repeat them is becoming tedious, and the Crusades always struck me as one of the dumbest and most ignoble episodes in my history text book.

Paul William Roberts has just completed a book on Egypt by Rammah House. He is now in Jordan and Iraq covering the current crisis.

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Edberg just survives, Wilander knocked out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

When you have power, Stefan Edberg, you can beat even the biggest hitters and avoid beating yourself. The top seed needed very little touch Monday—and overcame a little tightness in the throat—to beat Jim Courier at the Australian Open.

The two-time champion reached the quarterfinals for the seventh consecutive year with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-7, 6-2 victory in a centre court meeting that sometimes resembled a shootout than a tennis match.

Both these guys are slammers, with Courier perhaps the hardest hitter in the game. But Edberg, last year's runner-up here and champion at Wimbledon, had more to his game when it counted to oust the 16th-seeded. His win came despite mammoth errors on the final points of Courier's two winning sets.

"I think I'm a much better tennis player than I was a few years ago and playing in a fifth set is a matter of experience," Edberg said. "Today I was able to bring out that advantage in the fifth set. It is a matter of confidence."

Edberg raised his five-set record to 18-10. Courier now is 1-5, with the only victory a 7-6, 3-6, 2-6, 6-0, 7-5 win over Andre Agassi in the final of the 1989 Swiss Indoors.

Meanwhile, defending champion Ivan Lendl breezed into the quarterfinals for the sixth year in a row.

The third seed took command, winning seven games in a row at the end of the first set and the beginning of the second, losing just seven points in that span, and beating 13th-seeded American Aaron Krickstein 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

Edberg will go in Wednesday's quarterfinals against Jamie Yzaga of Peru, who eliminated three-time champion Mats Wilander in another five-setter, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

It was the first time in the open era of tennis that a Peruvian player has reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal. Alex Olmeda of Peru won the Australian Open in 1959.

Wilander, now 47th in the world after taking some time off from tennis, made too many errors and Yzaga took advantage with a devastating forehand.

In another fourth round match between unseeded players, Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic beat Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 7-6, 6-7, 6-0, 7-6. The match was played on court 1 but just as well could have taken place in a hospital ward.

Prpic has a badly damaged knee and has been told that one wrong move could end his career. He also was suffering with a fever. Siemerink was playing with a sore shoulder that required massaging from the trainer on changeovers.

Prpic meets Lendl next. The Edberg-Courier match paired two players very much alike in playing style and very different in personal panache.

The top-ranked Swede, who lives in an exclusive section of London, looks cool and calm on court, watched by his glamorous girlfriend, Annette Olsen, in the stands.

Courier, on the other hand, looks like a working-class dude with a blue-collar game. With his baseball cap and beefy, 6-foot-1, 173-pound body, he looks as if he could have just climbed off a tractor. The American was also fined \$2,000 for swearing after a double fault in the opening game of the fourth set.

But put these two on court and most of the differences vanish. The key word is "most," and that enabled Edberg to win.

Better touch around the net, the endurance to run until the end and the patience to wait for Courier to overhit or guess wrong was the margin.

Edberg saved four break points in the sixth game of the first set, but his fourth double-fault of the set gave Courier the break in the 12th game. Courier returned a booming Edberg serve two points earlier almost seated on the court, and Edberg—the court wide open—netted the volley for 15-40, then gave him the set.

In the second and third games, about the only thing that Edberg failed to hit for a winner were the droppings from a bird flying over the court. He had the spatter cleaned up, then cleaned out Courier with a big serve-and-volley game that allowed just four points on serve in the second set.

"When he gets his serve in deep, he comes in so quickly that it's hard to do anything with it," Courier said.

Courier's game plan changed from hit it hard to hit it harder in the fourth set, and he tied the match 2-2 when Edberg double-faulted and netted an open-court forehand volley on the last two points.

But Edberg quickly broke at 15 for a 1-0 lead in the fifth set and again for 4-1. He writhed it up when Courier hit a lob long.

Lendl, aiming for a third consecutive Australian title, broke Krickstein in the third game for 2-1 and never looked back.

The U.S.-based Czechoslovak all but clinched the victory with a run from 3-2 in the first set to 4-0 in the second. He wracked up point after point with ground-stroke winners and ended four

consecutive service games with aces.

Lendl's game softened a bit after that but Krickstein lacked the game to catch up. He held for 1-1 in the third set before Lendl won the last five games.

Who's No. 1?

The computer says Stefan Edberg, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) says Ivan Lendl. A couple of those involved had differing opinions at the Australian Open Monday.

Edberg, no. 1 in the Association of Tennis Professionals' (ATP) rankings, said the ITF's naming of Lendl as the Player of the Year for 1990 left him befuddled.

"I think it's very strange that I'm having my best year of my life in 1990, while Lendl is dropping down to no. 3 in the rankings form no. 1," Edberg said. "It sort of doesn't make sense to me."

Lendl, the defending champion, was picked by an ITF panel for greater consistency through the year. The federation noted that Edberg had been a first-round loser in two Grand Slam events, the French and U.S. Opens. Lendl said he was surprised by the award but wouldn't give it back.

"I don't feel sorry for Stefan," he said. "It's a competition and you never feel sorry for your competitors."

A neutral observer, Jim Courier, gave his vote to Edberg, who beat him in the fourth round.

"He's ranked no. 1, he's no. 1," Courier said. "I can't see how the ITF picked Lendl. Lendl won the Australian and Edberg won Wimbledon. I mean, which one is bigger? You tell me."

Future and Manolo Sanchez had both failed to send into the net.

In the 31st minute, Schuster lobbed a free kick to Sanchez who gently nodded in a second goal. Schuster's goal came 20 minutes into the second half when he tapped the ball past Espanol keeper Jose Buirru.

Future made it four just one minute from the final whistle when he scooped up a dead ball the Espanol defence had failed to clear and sent it skidding along the grass into goal.

Modest Osasuna clong to third place, beating Real Betis 3-0 at home and making their Polish striker Jan Urban top scorer in the Spanish first division with a tally of 11, one more than Real Madrid's Mexican hot-shot Hugo Sanchez.

His goal in the 22nd minute followed a fine pass from striker Jose Ciganda.

European Figure Skating Championships open today

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)— Amid concern over security and shortages that threatened cancellation or postponement, the European Figure Skating Championships begin this week in the Bulgarian capital.

The championship competition opens Tuesday with the women's original programme followed by the pair's short programme in the evening.

The opening draw is Monday evening. Bulgaria has been plagued by food and energy shortages. Organisers have said that the competitors will not be hindered. Electricity needs are assured with the addition of two heavy-duty army generators at the skating rink.

Following the breakout of the Gulf war last Thursday, there was concern as to whether the competition should be held.

Baet Hasler, the general secretary of the International Skating Union (ISU) said that after consultation with members of the ISU and the Bulgarian authorities, the championships would not be cancelled.

Sweden originally pulled out of the championships as it did for the European speed skating competition in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

However, Lawrence Demmy of Britain, the ISU technical delegate said that the country's figure skating federation changed its decision and the team is already in Sofia.

A reported precaution taken was the presence of a special anti-terrorist unit at the competition sites, at the request of the International Skating Union.

In the competition, the strong Soviet squad has been defending champions in two events. Viktor Petrenko is a solid favourite again in the men's event.

However ice dancers Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko are being pressed hard by the innovative brother and sister Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, who represent France with Canadian ties.

Klimova and Ponomarenko did not complete the Soviet championships after she was said to be ill. The Duchesnays won the free dance at the world championships in Halifax, Canada, last March but finished second overall to the Soviet couple.

Evelyn Grossman is the women's defender. However the former East German came in just third in the unified German championships last December. The East German sports system fell apart after unification as many athletes and coaches are looking into other interests.

The pairs title is the only competition without a returning champion. Olympic gold medalists Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov turned professional leaving the title open.

Their Soviet compatriots, Natasha Mishkutinok and Artur Dmitriev were expected favourites after their strong third in the World Skating Championships last March. But they

have now won anything this fall, including the Soviet championships which went to Evgenia Shustkova and Vadim Naumkov.

Duchesnays turning into one. From sexy to unisex, Paul and Isabelle Duchesnay have expanded the imagination of figure skating before. This time the duo hopes to make waves by appearing as one.

The French-Canadian-born brother and sister who skate for France team will introduce their new routine "reflections" at the European Figure Skating Championships.

It is a unisex routine with both dancers dressed the same as a person looking at all sides of himself.

"We wanted everything to be the same," Paul said. "We want people to be confused completely from beginning to end."

It is another routine choreographed by Christopher Dean who is now Isabelle's fiancé.

Dean and partner Jayne Torvill won the world title four times and the Olympic gold medal in 1984. Their "Bolero" is remembered from the 1984 Olympics for its maximum nine perfect marks of 6.0 for artistic impression.

Now Dean works with the Duchesnays and continues to show original choreography and to bring dance innovation to another level.

This year the Duchesnays show their adventurous steps and gestures by presenting just one character on the ice, as if looking into a mirror.

"We also wanted something completely different from the other years," Paul said. "This year the music is slower ... not like last year when it went faster and faster."

"There is always motivation to do something new," Isabelle said.

Last season's "Missing" was a sensation in depicting a struggle for freedom to music of pan flutes and pipes.

The Duchesnays hope to gain the European title with the unusual routine of a person in solitude.

"The idea was to get Isabelle and Paul mixed up so people will not know who's who," said Martin Skotnicky, their coach who works with them in Oberstdorf, Germany. "They will have the same hair colour, same makeup, and the same clothes."

The music is a piano piece by George Winston. "The music is my only worry. It is very intellectual and an intellectual programme," Skotnicky said.

The fast that Isabelle has trousers on is not going to bother Paul. "What bothers the judges is when the girls have too open costumes, in had taste and a bit vulgar," Paul said. "In here Isabelle is covered from the neck to the bottom."

The response at an exhibition in Germany at the beginning of January pleased the skaters and the Duchesnays.

"A coach came up to us and said at one stage he didn't know who was who and that's what we want," Paul said. "We have some problems in synchronising. We must be completely neutral."

There is usually nothing neutral in opinions about the Duchesnays. Since Dean has taken over the choreography, the Duchesnays have moved from ninth at the 1987 worlds to second last year.

They are closing the gap on the Soviets. After a third at the 1990 Europeans Championships, they jumped over the second-ranked Soviets, Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin in Halifax, Canada.

Most of the cheers and applause went to the Duchesnays for their breathtaking performance in the world meet last March. It was sort of a homecoming for them. Isabelle was born in Canada and they skated there until dual citizenship to represent France from 1985.

Dean came to them in 1988 and they have been rising ever since.

In 1988 they created a stir with the "Jungle Dance" with costumes designed to look torn animal hides and skating to African music. The controversy was started and the couple finished sixth in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

The next year it was a more sedate number as they came in third in the World Championships in Paris.

That was followed by "Missing" which continued to stretch the limits.

Now it is "Reflections" where Isabelle and Paul change places figuratively and literally.

"In ballet, the woman is always the flower and the man is the frame," Paul said. "Here I come in the middle sometimes and that gives the impression that Isabelle is giving the male movements."

After the Europeans in Sofia, the team — the Duchesnays, Dean and Skotnicky — will polish things and prepare for the World Championships in Munich, Germany, in March. There are the Olympics in Albertville, France in 1992.

The Duchesnays are getting about \$200,000 a year to cover expenses and stay amateur by the French Skating Federation.

That puts a lot of pressure on them to succeed. But the Duchesnays don't mind it.

Toronto awarded '93 Indoor Athletics Championships

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (Agencies) — Toronto was awarded the 1993 World Indoor Athletics Championships ahead of the U.S. city of Atlanta, already chosen to host the 1996 Olympics.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the Canadian victory after a two-day meeting.

The IAAF council also selected the Italian city of Turin for the 1992 Grand Prix final with London's Wembley chosen for the following year.

San Sebastian was invited to host the World Marathon Cup in 1993 while Athens will stage it in 1995 "in order to honour the approaching centenary of the Olympic Games." Athens staged the first Olympics in 1896.

The IAAF also chose Madeira for the 1992 World Road Relay Championships and Gatshead in Britain for the World Half-Marathon Championships in the same year.

IAAF membership increased to 184 with the acceptance of Guinea-Bissau as a member. But about 200 Catalan nationalists demonstrated outside the hotel where the meeting took place demanding Catalonia be made a separate IAAF member.

They have made the same demand for the 1992 Olympics in the Catalan capital Barcelona. The 23-member (IAAF) council — minus a Kuwaiti Athletic Federation representative — unanimously approved the San Sebastian marathon course after a presentation by the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB). IAAF spokesman Robert Fasulo said.

The council also unanimously chose San Sebastian to host the April 1993 World Marathon Cup over New Delhi, India, and Athens, Greece, he said. The 1991 World Marathon Cup is scheduled for April 21 in London.

The IAAF council's two-day meeting, which began Saturday in this northern Basque city, was the first since last September in Athens.

"The approval came despite initial council concern about a finish some viewed as too steep in the last two kilometres of the Olympic marathon run up Montjuic Hill into the Olympic Stadium," Fasulo said.

Kuwaiti Athletic Federation President Isa Al Dashti earlier excused himself from the meeting in a message to the IAAF in which he said he and his family were safely in exile in a Gulf country.

The spokesman also said the council authorised a two-kilometre Barcelona Olympic walk course, which will be staged from the Zona Franca Boulevard in Barcelona's port area to the Olympic Stadium.

Atletico Madrid scores 4-0 win over Espanol

MADRID (R) — Midfielder Bernd Schuster guided Atletico Madrid to a comfortable 4-0 home win over Espanol Sunday, a performance that confirmed Madrid's challenge to league leaders, Barcelona.

The confident midfield marshall of the former West German international stopped the visitors pressuring the Atletico goal. Schuster, in his first season at Atletico after leaving Real Madrid last season, also contributed a goal.

However Barcelona's 2-1 home win over struggling Real Madrid Saturday, helped by an own-goal from Real's Yugoslav defender Pedrag Spasic, prevented second-placed Atletico from closing the four-point gap.

Defender Juanito Rodriguez put Atletico ahead after 14 minutes when he stormed into the Espanol area and knocked home a ball that Atletico captain Paulo

Future made it four just one minute from the final whistle when he scooped up a dead ball the Espanol defence had failed to clear and sent it skidding along the grass into goal.

Modest Osasuna clong to third place, beating Real Betis 3-0 at home and making their Polish striker Jan Urban top scorer in the Spanish first division with a tally of 11, one more than Real Madrid's Mexican hot-shot Hugo Sanchez.

His goal in the 22nd minute followed a fine pass from striker Jose Ciganda.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



12-21 HARRIS

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles. Write one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEHIC
SABSY
FLIECK
REPUPA

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumble: BOGUS GROOM PRAYER TREMOR
Answer: What the former bodybuilder's torso became as he reached middle age—MORE SO

THE Daily Crossword by Donald Groot

ACROSS

- 1 Tris
- 2 Tamruff of old films
- 3 Whodunnit item
- 4 Harrow competitor
- 5 Grow weary
- 6 boom
- 7 Glitter
- 8 On one's — (alert)
- 9 Self-esteem
- 10 Wood stripe
- 11 Walk leisurely
- 12 Young tough
- 13 Hebrew trait
- 14 On a train
- 15 Prior: prof.
- 16 Concoords
- 17 Cais
- 18 Judicious one
- 19 Against
- 20 Unreasonable
- 21 (begin Mollere quote)
- 22 Rage
- 23 Capri
- 24 Aversion
- 25 Vana dir.
- 26 Stratford's river
- 27 Scolds mildly
- 28 Cheshire cat
- 29 feature
- 30 Discharged
- 31 Poltroons
- 32 Concludes
- 33 Me Oyl
- 34 Actor John of "Boots"
- 35 Eng. river
- 36 Goes up
- 37 Oxen harness
- 38 Happy
- 39 Geniuncted
- 40 Observed
- 41 Old Eng. measure
- 42 Wait upon
- 43 Newsstand
- 44 Wrath
- 45 Telegram deliverer
- 46 "as snow"
- 47 Ms Doone
- 48 Mollere part: abbr.
- 49 Wait
- 50 Bakery worker
- 51 Nightingale
- 52 Montezuma
- 53 "Live without stain" (verbi)
- 54 Petty officer
- 55 Bizarre
- 56 Sluggish Hank
- 57 Hair net
- 58 Barrel
- 59 Neap and ebb
- 60 Child's game
- 61 Madet maneuver
- 62 Hasselhoff of TV
- 63 Resort lake
- 64 Neb
- 65 Selected
- 66 Mallet kin
- 67 Feed a furnace
- 68 Stopper
- 69 Ken of TV
- 70 Acne or crack
- 71 Streamlet
- 72 Spoken
- 73 NL team
- 74 Stooze name

DOWN

- 1 Frope
- 2 Take — from me
- 3 Dangle
- 4 14
- 5 15
- 6 16
- 7 17
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMNAH HIRSCH
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THE RIGHT INFERENCE

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 3
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ K 7
♥ K 5 3
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ A 5 3 2

EAST
♠ K
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ K 7 6 4 3
♣ Q 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ Q J 9 8 6 4
♥ A Q 10
♦ A
♣ K 8 7

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
Dbl 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

How does an expert approach the play of the hand? Study the North-South cards only and decide how West would play four spades after the lead of the queen of diamonds, then read on.

North's raise to two spades over the takeout double was the same bid that would have been made had West not intervened. It showed 6-10 points and some defensive values. South was full value for a jump to game.

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer took time out to consider the possibilities. There was a possible trump loser, one in hearts and two in clubs. Except for diamonds, there were finesse positions in the other suits. However, most of the missing cards were marked with West.

The opening lead meant West had started with the queen-jack of diamonds; ergo, East held the diamond king. West, a passed hand, could not hold all the outstanding honors, since that would have given him a full opening bid. So if West held the king of trumps, East had to have either the king of hearts or ace of clubs.

Once declarer reached the conclusion that if West had the spade king, the contract was on ice, an additional chance became available. Declarer won the opening lead and led a trump to the ace. Had the king not dropped, declarer would have started on hearts and still had the possibility of bringing home the contract via an endplay. When, in fact, the king came tumbling down, declarer didn't much care whether anything else worked. South could go about the business of making 10 tricks in comfort.

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, WILL YA LEND ME THE TEN SPOT YOU OWE ME?

I HAVEN'T GOT IT NOW! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU SATURDAY!

WE WANT TO DECIDE SOMETHING! WILL ONE OF YOU GENTS FLIP A COIN FOR US?

SURE! I'LL DO IT!

I LOSE!

I WIN!

WELL, THEY'RE S'LONG LARRY! S'LONG CHARLIE!

SEE YA LATER!

JEFF HERE'S THAT TEN I OWE YOU!

Andy Capp

DO YOU REMEMBER BEING IN MY CLASS AT SCHOOL, MISSUS?

ER—JUST ABOUT.

REMEMBER ME GIVING YOU MEASLES JUST BEFORE THE EXAM? ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER, EH?

HE'S REALLY SCRAPING THE BARREL TONIGHT.

Peanuts

HERE'S THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAGMAN STANDING IN THE ROAD CONTROLLING TRAFFIC.

STOP

SLOW

JUST TRYIN' TO DO MY JOB, FELLA!

TWA sacks 1,500 flight attendants, union says

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Blaming tension in the Middle East, Trans World Airlines (TWA) has announced plans to lay off about 1,500 flight attendants beginning Monday, the flight attendants union said Sunday.

A recorded telephone message to members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants says the airline informed the union Saturday of the plans. The last day on the payroll for those affected is Monday.

Union official Mary Ellen Miller says in the recording the TWA blamed the layoffs primarily on "the situation in the Middle East." All airlines have been hurt by higher fuel costs that were brought on by a sharp rise in oil prices this past fall. Miller said the union is "vehemently protesting" and was exploring its legal options on grounds the airline is stopping pay without proper notice.

No one answered phone calls Sunday when the Associated Press phoned TWA headquarters in Mt. Kisco, New York, and its hub offices in St. Louis.

According to the flight attendants tape recording, the layoff schedule calls for 800 furloughs in New York, 394 in Los Angeles, and 229 in St. Louis.

TWA owner Carl Icahn has been shrinking the size of the carrier over the past year. The airline once was among the largest in the country, but has become a struggling, debt-laden carrier in recent years.

U.S. wants more funding for Gulf war from Tokyo, Bonn

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. demands that Japan and Germany bear more of the financial burden of fighting Iraq are complicating efforts by the world's industrial powers to prevent the war from disrupting financial markets.

By coordinating their efforts to buy and sell currencies, the United States and its Group of Seven colleagues hope to prevent the war from sending global markets into a tailspin.

But menacing the show of unity is a disagreement over how much of the war's tab should be picked up by Japan and Germany. Both countries have refused to commit troops to the conflict and both are heavily dependent on Middle East oil.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is stressing the need for greater contributions in private discussions.

However, it was unclear whether the message was being heeded in meetings of the finance ministers and central bank presidents of the seven industrial powers: The United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

The meetings, which began with a dinner Sunday night, were to conclude with a statement after a full day of private discussions Monday.

Brady met privately for an hour with Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto prior to Sunday night's dinner. Later, he told reporters that the

Japanese "said they would do their share."

But a Japanese official, who briefed reporters on condition his name not be used, said no specific amounts were discussed in the meeting.

U.S. officials refused to comment on reports that the U.S. government is asking Japan for a \$5 billion increase in the \$4 billion in assistance already pledged by Tokyo for the war effort.

Some U.S. lawmakers have labelled the Japanese and German contributions as minuscule for two nations that depend heavily on Middle East oil but haven't committed troops. Germany has pledged \$3.13 billion toward the allied Gulf effort.

The biggest issue facing the finance officials was how to insure that the war does not destabilize global markets.

Stock prices have risen and the dollar and other currencies have remained stable in the early days of fighting. Unanswered is how long that will last.

"The markets have performed pretty well, but bad news could change that fairly quickly," said Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson.

With the economies of the United States, Canada and Britain already in recession, the concern is that a period of severe instability could threaten consumer and business confidence worldwide and topple all countries into an economic down-

turn. To prevent that, the wealthy nations were prepared to pledge close coordination of their economic policies. That might include massive intervention in financial markets to stabilize the dollar and other currencies should they come under pressure.

The dollar's stability is particularly important not with the U.S. economy so weak and the federal government facing the prospect of the biggest deficit in history.

The fear is that a weak dollar would cause foreign investors to dump their American investments and send the greenback plunging even further while driving up U.S. interest rates.

"There is enough risk that the finance leaders had better come up with a strong statement showing that they are on top of the situation," said C. Fred Bergsten, a former U.S. Treasury official, who now heads the Washington-based Institute for International Economics.

The finance officials were also reviewing the economic plight of the Soviet Union.

However, a U.S. proposal to give the Soviets a special status to receive technical advice from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank was expected to be put on hold in light of Moscow's crackdown in Lithuania this month.

The G-7 meeting, the first since September, is part of a coordination exercise leading to a July economic summit to be attended by President George Bush and the other leaders in London.

Longer Gulf war prospect sobers Asian stock markets

TOKYO (R) — Asian stock markets sobered up Monday after the binge which followed the early claims of successes of U.S.-led forces against Iraq as the realization dawned that the war was in for a war of weeks, not days.

In Tokyo the U.S. dollar was firmer against most major currencies on Jan. 21, finishing the day at 132.75 Japanese yen and 1.5077 marks after closing in New York Friday at 132.50 and 1.4985.

Crude oil prices rose slightly in relatively quiet Far East trading with gold traded at around \$380 an ounce compared with about \$377 at Saturday's Hong Kong close.

Led by Tokyo, most Asian stock markets lost ground as the perception grew that the Gulf war would last longer than at first expected. Even where there were gains, investors were apprehensive.

Iraq's weekend missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia strengthened the belief that it might take more than expected time for Baghdad to be forced out of Kuwait.

"People are starting to come to the realization and it's starting to sink in that this thing is not going to go away in a day," said a senior broker with Smith New Court in Sydney.

"If they can't bring the situation to a head soon, we are going to see some heavy falls," Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index lost nearly two per cent of its value in the lightest trading since the conflict began last Thursday.

It closed down 456 points at 23,352.19. Volume at 230 million shares traded was only about one third of Friday's frenetic activity.

"Rather than selling today, the declines stem from a lack of buying," said market analyst Takahide Furuhashi of D.B. Capital Markets (Asia). After the initial expectations for a short war, people are viewing the market more cautiously today.

Brokers said unrest in the separatist Soviet Baltic republics kept many other investors sidelined. Shares were weaker too in Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Wellington and Kuala Lumpur.

But there were gains in Sydney, Manila and especially in Taipei, where prices were up for the fourth successive day on late buying by investors encouraged by the course of the war.

The Taiwan weighted index, up 4.4 per cent on Monday, has now gained 34.7 per cent since the start of the conflict, but dealers said more profit-taking was likely.

"The market has risen too much and too fast recently, and a correction will be seen soon," said Joe Chiou of Evergreen Securities.

The euphoria which hit Wall Street Thursday, when war finally

broke out after months of nervous anticipation, took investors, analysts and pundits by surprise.

When the markets opened Thursday, oil prices fell by a third, stocks scored their second-biggest gain ever, gold dropped by more than \$30 an ounce and bonds soared.

Economists had forecast that war would cause oil prices to shoot up, raising fears the world economy would be hit by a burst of inflation at a time when the United States, Britain Australia and Canada were gripped by recession.

But although the Dow Jones

industrial average rose 115 points, and the relentless optimism continued Friday, the mood turned cautious again as analysts conceded the war would not end as early as the markets had hoped.

On Far Eastern oil markets, Britain's Brent crude for March delivery was quoted at \$18.50/\$18.90 against Friday's New York closing price of \$18.15/\$18.25.

Traders said the prospect of a conflict lasting several weeks failed to worry the oil market as the flow of Middle Eastern oil was so far uninterrupted and world supplies were ample.

Tokyo markets outlook on Gulf war turns uncertain

TOKYO (R) — Optimism about an early end to the Gulf war faded from Tokyo financial markets Monday, leaving investors uncertain of the conflict's ultimate impact.

In the stock market, some analysts say the war has clouded the outlook for interest rates, exacerbated worries over the U.S. economy and raised doubts about domestic corporate profits.

"I think the market will go up in the first half of the year, said Peter Tasker, senior analyst at Kleinwort Benson International Inc. "The economic cycle is driving interest rates down strongly. It's only a question of time before the Bank of Japan eases short-term interest rates."

"It's increasingly unclear," said Kunio Urakami, senior advisor at Nikko Securities Trust and Management Co Ltd. "We have to wait and see. No one can read the market."

Other market analysts, however, said the war itself was unlikely to have a major impact on the market, unless all Middle East oil supplies were cut off and crude prices soared.

"As long as oil is not affected, it doesn't have such a direct impact," said Tadaaki Uehara, deputy manager at Wako Securities Co Ltd.

Japan imports virtually all its oil, about 70 per cent of it from the Middle East.

Oil industry sources said oil prices would be volatile this week but unable to sustain any sharp jumps because of the huge stocks of crude oil worldwide.

"Any price increase will be purely psychological," one Japanese trader said.

Much of the stock market's outlook remains dependent on

interest rate forecasts, but consensus is hard to come by.

"It all depends on whether you think interest rates are coming down," said Wako's Uehara.

Some market analysts say the current slowdown in Japan's economy means Japanese interest rates will ease quickly, boosting the stock market.

"I think the market will go up in the first half of the year, said Peter Tasker, senior analyst at Kleinwort Benson International Inc. "The economic cycle is driving interest rates down strongly. It's only a question of time before the Bank of Japan eases short-term interest rates."

But a protracted war and a burgeoning U.S. budget deficit could mean the U.S. is not able to loosen its monetary policy, which could in turn make it harder for Japan to ease rates.

"If the United States can't continue easing rates because of the war, there will be less chance for Japan to reduce," said Tadayasu Hasegawa, general manager at Kokusai Securities Co Ltd.

And if oil prices were to rise, the Bank of Japan could tighten interest rates to fight inflation, some economists said.

Concern also persists in some quarters about Japanese corporate profits.

"Gulf aside, the risks are down ... but we've still got pain out there," said Andrew Ballingall, strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd.

Many market analysts see the key 225-share Nikkei stock average trapped in a range of between 22,000 and 25,000 until the end of the business year in March.

"It's hard to go up or down

much, at least until March," said a senior broker at a major Japanese securities house.

"It used to be that the market would move before they were certain," Uehara said. "Now there are too many uncertainties, so people want to be sure before they move."

In the currency market, dealers' views of how the war will affect the U.S. currency are also mixed.

Some, perhaps the majority for now, say a prolonged war will aggravate the U.S. budget deficit, further weaken the U.S. economy, and so depress the dollar.

"If the Gulf war drags on for weeks, it will hurt U.S. federal budget plans and prompt dollar selling," said Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank manager Shigeto Yanase. "As the market focus shifts to the health of the U.S. economy, the dollar's upside will be capped."

But dealers said the U.S. currency could see gains based on its traditional status as a safe-haven currency if Israel retaliates after being hit by Iraqi missiles or if Iraq damaged Saudi Arabian oil installations.

Yen bond market dealers, having seen their market rally steadily since October, are perhaps the least worried about the Gulf war's impact.

Most say underlying fundamentals remain strong, although there may be some volatility as dealers react to events in the Gulf. While investors have been looking to buy on weakness, many dealers are looking to take profits on strength.

"The market's looking a bit topish," said a dealer at a U.S.-based investment bank.

Hungary sells gas masks to Saudi Arabia

BUDAPEST (AP) — A Hungarian company has sold half a million gas masks and protective clothing to a buyer in Saudi Arabia, the state MTI news agency reported Monday.

According to MTI, the value of the masks, filters, and protective outfits was about \$24 million. It did not name either the buyer or the company which sold the equipment. Most of the gas masks were manufactured in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and one quarter of them was made in Hungary. Last week, a Slovak company was reported to have started shipping to Riyadh thousands of gas masks bought by Saudi Arabia.

IMF loan gives Indian economy breathing space

NEW DELHI (R) — The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) approval of a \$1.79 billion loan will help restore India's creditworthiness and rescue its deteriorating balance of payments position, officials and economists said.

India's foreign exchange reserves had dwindled to just over \$1 billion by Jan. 4, enough to finance only two weeks of imports — compared with \$3.25 billion a year ago, finance ministry figures showed.

"The crisis in the Middle East has had severe and widespread effects on the economy," the IMF said in a statement Friday. India will get \$777 million under a first credit tranche standby arrangement for three months. The remaining \$1,009 billion is provided under the IMF's compensatory financing facility to help India pay for the higher cost of imported oil.

Both are five-year loans carrying nine per cent interest. The first tranche constitutes only 25 per cent of India's IMF quota. India could go back to the fund to draw more money, one diplomat said.

Bankers said India needed a large loan from the IMF to shore up its reserves and improve its creditworthiness in order to find money in the capital-short commercial lending markets.

India borrowed \$5 billion from the IMF in 1981 — at the time the largest loan it had ever made. But new borrowings from the fund could come with conditions, one banker said.

The IMF statement indicated that India's draft budget for fiscal 1991/92, beginning in April would be scrutinized.

Delhi had hesitated for months over whether to apply for the loan, with public debate focusing on "conditionalities" — the reforms the IMF often demands in return for the money.

"It looks like the government proposed its own package of sensible reforms and the fund said 'okay. Good job. Here's the money. But we'll be watching,'" one diplomat said.

The IMF praised India for passing on higher imported oil prices to the consumer to reduce the growth of oil consumption.

It also approved of India starting to move a more outward economic orientation by encouraging exports and increasing the flexibility of the exchange rate.

"Monetary policy has kept tight and imports by government agencies have been reduced," it said.

But large fiscal deficits fuelled inflation and drained external reserves, it added.

Chinese companies increase shipping charges

BEIJING (R) — China's two leading shipping companies are imposing surcharges to cover increases in fuel and insurance costs caused by the Gulf war, the official China Daily said Monday.

China National Foreign Trade Transport Corporation (Sinotrans) and China Ocean Shipping Corporation (COSCO) will levy a "Middle East emergency surcharge" of 16 to 18 per cent on shipments from Tuesday, it said.

"We have to cope with skyrocketing fuel prices and ship insurance," the newspaper quoted Sinotrans Vice President Lu Zhongren as saying.

The company's diesel oil costs had risen to \$205 per tonne from \$80 per tonne before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, he said. Supplies were difficult to find, he added.

Shipping companies were being charged an extra 0.05 per cent per week in war insurance, he said without elaborating.

There was speculation the Suez Canal might close, the newspaper noted.

Moscow Commodity Exchange may be trading grain in May

MOSCOW (R) — The Moscow Commodity Exchange expects to be trading grain by May, a U.S. consultant helping to set up the venture has said.

"We're quite confident of using May 1 as a date when grain trading on the Moscow Commodity Exchange will be functioning," Myron Laserson, president of New York-based Central Trading Systems, said in an interview.

Laserson has been in Moscow since December advising the fledgling exchange how to organize a grain trading system.

Two such exchanges have been functioning in the Soviet capital, trading in a wide range of goods, including raw materials, machinery and household items.

The grain to be traded on the exchange will come from collective and state farms whose harvest exceeds the volume re-

quired under the state plan, Laserson said. In addition, some grain will be produced by farmers on private plots.

Laserson estimated that about 20 per cent of the Soviet Union's grain harvest can legally be sold at free prices.

Soviet grain harvest in 1990 stood officially at 240 million tonnes — a record despite losses incurred as a result of transportation, distribution and manpower difficulties.

Laserson said the exchange is drafting model contracts for members to use when conducting transactions on the trading floor, but buyers and sellers will be able to put in whatever individual terms they require.

He said exchange's grain trading activities will serve as a vital link between the old system of state-controlled prices and the introduction of Western-style commodity futures exchanges.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN AMMAN

Requests urgently all the Czechoslovak women married to Jordanian citizens to get into contact immediately with the embassy on

Tel. 665105 or 665106

GOETHE INSTITUTE AMMAN GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSES

In response to the request of many of our course participants and other persons interested in German language courses the Goethe-Institut Amman announces the beginning of its courses for all levels on Saturday, 28 Jan. 91.

Additional registrations are accepted on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd of Jan. from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 4 - 6 p.m.

Lessons take place on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.15 p.m. or at 6 p.m. for 90 minutes.

Duration of courses: 26 Jan. - 20 March 91. For information please call 641993 during office hours.

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

1. Due to the current situation and unless otherwise stated by the Ministry of Education, the school will resume teaching after the winter holiday on Monday, January 28, 1991 and not on Sunday January 27, 1991 as was scheduled.
2. The mock IGCSE exams which were scheduled on January 27, 1991 will be held a week after school starts.
3. The mock IB exams which were scheduled on February 9, 1991 will be held two weeks after school starts.
4. The teaching staff are expected to be in school at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday January 27, 1991.

VACANCY NOTICE FOR TELETYPE OPERATOR WITH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

A Regional Office of an International Organisation is seeking a Teletype Operator to operate Telephone, Telex and Fax equipment.

Requirements: Community College Diploma, very proficient English and Arabic typing as well as excellent general command of English. Or Diploma/vocational training in the use and maintenance of modern communication equipment. Five years of progressive experience in telecommunications operations.

Candidates who meet the above requirements should submit their bio-data in writing not later than February 3, 1991 to:

Personnel Section
P. O. Box 811721 Amman - Jordan

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

LAMBADA

Show: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Two Moon Junction

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

Suhair Ramzi, Farouq Al Fishawi, Halatem in

THE LITTLE MONSTERS (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi in

THE TYRANNY OF A WOMAN (Arabic)

Show: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

Latvia forms self-defence units after Soviets attack ministry

RIGA, Soviet Union (R) — The Latvian parliament voted Monday to set up special self-defence units after Soviet "black beret" special forces blasted their way into the Baltic republic's Interior Ministry.

A ministry spokesman in Riga said four people were killed and 10 wounded in Sunday night's 90-minute gunbattle in the centre of the Latvian capital.

Some reports put the death toll at five.

The attack was the second bloody operation against a Baltic separatist government in eight days. The crack troops left some five hours later after negotiations between Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis and Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo.

A spokesman for the Latvian parliament said deputies approved the formation of "special units of the forces of state self-defence" before dawn — hours after the operation at the Interior Ministry had ended.

A decree said the forces would "defend and protect the lives, rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of the Republic of Latvia, society and government from illegal threats."

There was no immediate indication on whose orders the "black berets" had acted. The unit, also known as Omon, is directly responsible to the hard-line Pugo, former head of the Latvian Communist Party and its KGB security police.

On Saturday night, a self-styled National Salvation Committee in the republic said it had taken power in Latvia, a move given great prominence in the Moscow media. The army action in neighbouring Lithuania the previous week was undertaken on the instructions of a similar committee.

A pro-Moscow deputy from Latvia said the special troops had fallen into a trap after trying to start negotiations with Interior

Ministry officials.

Colonel Viktor Alksnis, one of the country's most prominent conservatives, said Omon men had come to the ministry after an Omon officer's wife had been raped the previous day.

"When they arrived, some one opened fire without warning," Alksnis told Reuters by telephone in Moscow.

Reading a statement by the conservative "Ravopriavie" (equal rights) faction in the Latvian parliament, he added: "they found themselves caught in a trap aimed at destroying the Omon. They then made the decision to start attacking the building."

Alksnis also spoke briefly to the opening session of the parliament of the Russian Federation, which opened in Moscow, telling deputies he had been "sentenced to death" by separatist activists.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin told the session, moved forward by a week because of rising tension in the country, that developments in the Baltic were part of a "reactionary turnabout taking place today which is not yet irreversible."

"We are convinced that this is a strategic political error which should and must be corrected," he said.

In Riga, Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunov appeared on morning television to denounce the attack on the ministry and repeat his demand for the Omon to be removed from the republic's territory.

"I denounce these acts and send my condolences to the relatives of the victims," he said. "It was a tragic night."

A large and angry crowd gathered in front of the Interior Ministry building, denouncing the overnight action.

A pool of blood in a park near the ministry building had two white flowers placed next to it. The overnight fighting lit up

the centre of the ancient Hanseatic Port. A car burned fiercely and ambulances and fire engines raced through the streets.

Two of the four killed were Interior Ministry guards, another was a well-known local television journalist, apparently shot while filming the action, and the fourth was so far unidentified, Latvian officials said. A second journalist was badly wounded.

The fresh outbreak of violence in the Baltic region was met with concern in the West, despite world focus on the Gulf war.

A White House spokesman said Washington found the clashes at the Latvian Interior Ministry "deeply troubling."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called for vigilance in the West, saying it was possible the Soviet Union "could go back into hands which are dangerous."

President George Bush last week condemned the deaths of 13 unarmed Lithuanians when Soviet paratroops seized a Vilnius television tower. But there has been no move to call off the superpower summit scheduled for Feb. 11-13.

All three Baltic republics — Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — have proclaimed their intention to restore their pre-world war two independence.

In the Estonian capital, Tallinn, Reuters correspondent Nigel Stephenson reported two explosions overnight at buildings associated with minority ethnic Russians opposed to the republic's drive for independence.

No one was injured and damage was confined to broken windows.

An Estonian government spokesman said 20 plants in Tallinn were affected by strikes — mainly by Russian-speaking workers. Officials say they are prepared for the action and predict it will have little effect on the republic's economy.

Estonian President Arnold Runtel arrived in Moscow Sunday and Estonian officials in Moscow said he was holding talks in the Kremlin with Gorbachev.

Minister warns of civil war

Meanwhile Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkums accused Moscow Monday of trying to overthrow the government in Riga, and warned that unrest in the Soviet Union could lead to civil war.

"This is a battle for power," said Jurkums, who is on a visit to Sweden. "It is critical, for I don't think they shot dead five people just for fun. It was an attempt to overthrow the government in Latvia."

He said economic misery in the Soviet Union "might bring about civil unrest and a kind of civil war."

The attack in Riga was the second bloody assault on a Baltic separatist government in eight days, after a crackdown in Lithuania on Jan. 13 in which 13 civilians died.

Latvian Deputy Interior Minister Zenon Indrikov told Reuters in Moscow that 15 Latvian guards with small arms had defended the ministry against at least 100 "black berets."

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson condemned the incident, and blamed Soviet authorities.

"The latest events in Latvia are deeply worrying. Once again human lives have been lost in the Baltic republics," Carlsson said.

"The responsibility for this rests heavily on the Soviet authorities. It shows an open and brutal contempt for both the democratic process and for human lives."

Jurkums said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was to blame for unrest in the Baltic republics and Soviet Union as a whole.

Asian markets drop sharply after missile attack on Saudi Arabia

By Associated Press

ASIAN stock markets that had soared last week fell sharply Monday after a missile attack on Saudi Arabia, mirroring world apprehension about a protracted Gulf war. Muslim activists in Malaysia promised to seed thousands to fight for Iraq, and Bangladesh and Pakistan were rocked by anti-U.S. protests.

Supporters of both sides, meanwhile, continued to take to the streets around the globe.

In Tokyo, where initial optimism over the first U.S.-led attacks on Iraq spurred the market to its 10th largest single-day gain last week, the Nikkei Index slipped 456 points Monday, or 1.92 per cent of total market value.

"Share prices were lower almost across the board on concern that the Gulf war may be prolonged, contrary to last week's view of a short war," said Ynji Toho, an analyst with Yamaichi Securities.

Share prices in Manila, Hong Kong, Seoul and Bangkok also fell, although Sydney prices were slightly up.

"It's coming back to reality," said Paul Ensor, an analyst at Baring Research Ltd. in Bangkok, Thailand. "The war has not been won over the weekend. During the first day, people here acted almost as if it would be."

Malaysia's opposition Pan Malaysian Islamic Party said Monday it had begun registering volunteers to fight for and provide relief to Iraq. The 300,000-member party expected to sign up thousands of Muslims for the "jihad," or holy war, said its chief information officer, Sukhy Latiff.

Malaysia has banned all public protests, seeking to prevent unrest among Muslims who make up half of the South East Asian

ocean's population.

In Manila, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters Monday that Iraqi First Secretary Mowafak Al Ani must leave the country within 72 hours because of "strong evidence" linking him to a bomb that exploded prematurely about a block from a U.S.-run cultural centre.

The Saturday blast killed one Iraqi and injured another.

Thousands joined anti-war marches and demonstrations in South Africa, Australia, Germany, Spain and Japan, against the United States and its allies seeking to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

However, opinion polls found strong backing among Americans for the war effort. In New York, 10,000 people gathered outside the United Nations Sunday in support of Israel and the U.S.-led campaign.

Anti-war protests in Washington, which drew 25,000 demonstrators Saturday, shrank to only dozens Sunday.

Religious and community leaders among the more than 1.5 million Muslims in Britain called for the withdrawal of British troops.

In largely Muslim Bangladesh, which has sent 3,000 of its troops to the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, tens of thousands of people marched to protest U.S.-led attacks on Iraq. Neighbouring Pakistan, another Muslim nation which has sent 11,000 troops to the Gulf, also was rocked by anti-American demonstrations.

Australia's parliament, recalled Monday for a special two-day session on the Gulf crisis, began debating a resolution proposed by Prime Minister Bob Hawke calling for intensified efforts to solve the Palestinian issue.

He did not, however, endorse Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's call for an immediate ceasefire on the issue.

"It can only be after the current crisis is resolved that we can — as we must — intensify our efforts to establish peace and stability in the region, including through convening an international conference..." Hawke said.

Three Australian naval vessels are participating in the alliance against Iraq, and 40-50 Australian medical personnel are on ships in the region.

Neighbouring New Zealand announced Monday that it would send 20 military medical personnel to join 32 medics already serving with allied forces.

Security against reprisal attacks remained tight in many countries.

Egypt reopened the Giza Pyramids, Sphinx and other monuments to Western tourists Sunday. But Egyptians and other Arabs were still barred as a precaution.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan asked journalists not to scare away tourists by playing up reports about terrorism after soldiers were dispatched to guard the U.S., British, Israeli and Australian embassies, the newspaper Nation reported Monday. Security was increased after authorities learned of a threat.

"I've checked with my astrologer. Thailand's star is shining brightly. I'm sure Thailand is safe," Chai said, quoted as saying.

Still, the U.S. embassy in Bangkok extended its alert Monday and said the threat remained.

Chinese authorities, apparently unhappy over intense public interest in the war, banned Gulf news from the first 20 minutes of the nationally televised half-hour evening newscast, sources said.

Tracers in Riga signal attack by Soviet troops

RIGA, USSR (AP) — Tensions had eased Sunday during the day but the night turned violent as tracer bullets streaked through the sky above Riga in the latest Soviet effort to curb the Baltic separatist movement.

At 9:06 p.m. (1906 GMT), the sound of automatic weapons fire erupted in the streets of this city, the capital of Latvia.

Red and white tracers — the same colours as the Latvian flag — flew past the 11th floor of the Hotel Latvia, disappearing into the night sky above a government council of ministers building. Ferocious firing by Soviet black beret Interior Ministry commandos continued for 30 minutes, followed by two more hours of sporadic shooting.

Down below, people rushed from the log fires built next to the trees of the main thoroughfare where they had been warming themselves while guarding the council of ministers building.

They hid behind the barricades of trucks and tractors while others ran across the road and through a park toward the shooting outside the Latvian Interior Ministry building, which was not barricaded.

A car went up in flames next to the Interior Ministry and white smoke poured into the air above the building.

Ambulances and fire engines raced through the streets toward the scene of the shooting. The gunfire seemed to move to an area behind the Interior Ministry building, although the tracers continued to stream into the sky.

Tracers also ricocheted off the walls of the Interior Ministry building, looking like miniature explosions.

In the hours before midnight, three separate series of larger explosions rattled the windows of the Hotel Latvia. Their source was unknown.

Latvian television, which has been running round-the-clock news reports in the week since the Soviet assault on the Lithuanian broadcast facility, showed men in camouflage uniforms with black berets firing at buildings with automatic rifles and at people on the street who were shouting abuse at the gunmen.

Music blared from loudspeakers at the nearby building of Radio Riga, across a wide square from the 13th century Dome Cathedral, which a week ago was transformed into a clinic and soup kitchen.

Low voter turnout in Haiti runoff elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Runoff elections for a National Assembly drew a sparse weekend turnout nothing like the enthusiastic crowds who stood in line for hours last month to choose Haiti's first directly elected president.

Independent Radio Metropole called Sunday's balloting "timid voter participation." Voters could breeze in and out of polling places within minutes.

"People think everything has been settled with the election of a president," said Elgie Zephir, a delegate at the Electoral Bureau in Petionville on the outskirts of the capital.

Roman Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a leftist who championed Haiti's poor, won the Dec. 10 national elections for president in a landslide.

However, 22 of the 27 seats in the Senate were being contested Sunday, as were 41 of the 83

Chamber of Deputies seats.

No violence was reported in Sunday's balloting. Police patrolled the streets and more than 150 observers from the United Nations and Organisation of American States monitored the vote.

Electoral Council spokesman Victor Patrick said the elections went off without any major difficulties. "The initial tallies definitely indicate a small voter turnout," he said, but he gave no numbers.

It was not immediately known how many of the 2.9 million registered voters had cast ballots. Last month, more than 2 million voted. The population is 6.5 million.

Results from Sunday's runoffs were not expected before Jan. 27.

Aristide, a 37-year-old activist priest with a huge following among the masses, was elected with 67.5 per cent of the vote.

Doe's deputy declares himself Liberian president

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The vice president of Liberia under slain leader Samuel Doe has declared himself president, further complicating efforts to settle that nation's civil war.

Harry Moniba made the declaration at a news conference in Sierra Leone, this West African nation neighbouring Liberia, where he fled the war in Liberia in September saying he feared for his life. Moniba was the third person claiming to be Liberia's leader. His close association with the discredited Doe will make him unpopular with many Liberians.

Moniba said he believed his leadership could help resolve an apparent impasse in a peace process to build on a fragile truce. He said a West African-backed interim government led by veteran politician Amos Sawyer was unconstitutional, and he called for Sawyer to resign.

Sawyer was chosen by exiled Liberian politicians, businessmen and church leaders at a conference sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States. He has been installed in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, over the protection of a five-nation West African army sent to force an end to the war.

The main Liberian rebel leader, Charles Taylor, is also opposed to Sawyer's leadership. Taylor has set up a rival administration in the northern Liberian town of Gbarnga. He also calls himself president, citing the fact that his men have overrun

Monrovia.

Taylor started the war with an invasion from Ivory Coast in December 1989, saying he wanted to oust a corrupt and brutally oppressive regime.

Doe was slain in Monrovia on Sept. 9 by rebels of a breakaway rebel faction led by Prince Johnson.

Afterward, Johnson and remnants of Doe's army agreed to a truce, and both sides have sworn allegiance to Sawyer's government. But lately, Johnson has also criticised Sawyer.

It was not clear how the Liberian army soldiers would respond to Moniba's announcement.

Taylor joined in the truce in December after the West African army launched air raids behind his lines. Leaders of the warring factions met in Monrovia this week to discuss details of the ceasefire, and Johnson said they now would work together.

Vague plans have been laid to hold an "all-Liberia conference" to choose an interim government acceptable to all sides.

At his news conference, Moniba proposed a meeting in Monrovia. As he spoke, he was flanked by three former Doe cabinet ministers, including Justice Minister Jenkins Scott.

He said he went into hiding in Monrovia in July after he appealed to Doe to resign. Doe refused and sent soldiers to kill him, Moniba said. He remained in hiding until September, when he fled to Freetown.

Liberia has been without telephone communications since June, and it was not possible to get comment from there.

ANC to launch mass protests on Feb. 1

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) said Monday it would launch mass anti-apartheid protest demonstrations across the country from Feb. 1 to coincide with the opening of South Africa's white parliament.

"On Feb. 1, we expect (President F.W.) de Klerk to legislate his government," the ANC Johannesburg regional chairman, Kgalema Motlanthe, said in a telephone interview.

ANC leader Walter Sisulu said at the weekend the protests would involve marches, strikes, consumer boycotts and work stoppages to back demands for the speedy introduction of a non-racial democratic constitution.

De Klerk is expected to announce further measures to dismantle the 42-year-old apartheid race segregation system in his opening speech to parliament.

But the ANC demands that a constituent assembly, elected in a non-racial poll of all South Africans, write a new constitution ending apartheid. The government opposes this.

China tries protesters while world focuses on Gulf

PEKING (AP) — While the world counted down the last hours to war in the Gulf, a young Chinese scholar jailed since the 1989 democracy movement finally went on trial in Peking.

Liu Xiaobo's trial began 20 months after he was arrested and just a few hours before the U.N. deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait.

He was one of at least 24 participants in the failed democracy movement to be tried or sentenced this month — while the Gulf crisis preoccupied Western governments that normally would be critical of China's treatment of political dissidents.

Most of the 24 were students or older intellectuals who led the movement. Liu, 35, became famous when he staged a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square.

The Foreign Ministry has said there is no link between the start of the trials — which come about six months later than stipulated by law — and events in the Gulf. But relatives and friends of the jailed protesters find this hard to believe.

"With the war in the Gulf, it just means (the authorities) will try to finish up the trials as quickly as possible to avoid outside interference," said the relative of one protester whose trial is expected to begin shortly. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

"What we fear most is that their sentences will be overlooked in all the publicity over the Gulf," said a colleague of one protester.

But a Western diplomat said governments are not ignoring the trials.

"It will affect future relations if you have excessively harsh sentences," he said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

So far nine people, including four student leaders, have been convicted of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement," the charge most frequently used against political prisoners. Seven were sentenced to relatively light prison terms ranging from two to four years, and two were let off without punishment.

Closed-door trials for eight

others charged with the same crime, including Liu, have started in the past two weeks but recessed indefinitely pending sentencing.

Sources say they expect several dozen accused "counter-revolutionaries" to be tried and sentenced before the Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb. 15 this year. Most have been in jail since shortly after the bloody army attack on June 4, 1989, that ended the democracy movement and left hundreds dead.

"Counter-revolution" is the crime of opposing the 1949 Communist revolution and the Socialist system it established.

Authorities have ordered a virtual news blackout on the trials. Chinese reporters have not been allowed to attend. Newspapers have been silent on the trials in progress, and have reported only on the nine defendants already sentenced. There has been no word on how the defendants pleaded or what they said in court.

China contends that the court proceedings are being conducted according to law. However,

sources say the government has carefully orchestrated the trials. Top judges and prosecutors were selected and briefed on what to say. Defence lawyers were instructed on what to tell their clients, and ordered to submit their statements for review ahead of time.

Court officials have refused to answer most questions, only confirming when trials are recessed. Several have said that foreign reporters do not have the right even to ask questions about the proceedings.

Only selected Chinese citizens are allowed to watch the trials. Not even defendant's relatives automatically have the right to attend. Foreign human rights activists and several Chinese citizens who live overseas have flown to Peking and tried to attend trials, but have been refused.

The latest would-be observer, a Chinese man studying in Canada, was stopped by police when he arrived at the Peking airport Saturday and put on a plane out of the country.

Colombian rebels kidnap mine workers

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Leftist rebels kidnapped the wife of a gold mining engineer near Segovia in northwestern Colombia, police said.

They said the Irma Castro Yanez, wife of the manager of Frontino Gold Mines, was kidnapped Saturday in Antioquia state by rebels of the National Liberation Army, or ELN. Frontino is a Colombian company with offices in Segovia.

Security forces are still investigating the ELN's kidnappings Friday of three French petroleum engineers.

Miebel Michaud, Pierre Tarsuik, and Marcel Chambard — and their Colombian driver in a northwestern jungle region.

The rebels first killed Virgilio Gallo Hoyos, the security chief for their Consortium of Engineers Works Company; destroyed about \$1.25 million in property

and marched about 300 workers into the jungle. They later released everyone except the three Frenchmen and their driver.

The raid was on the consortium's main camp near Zaragoza. The consortium of international petroleum companies and the Colombian state oil company Ecopetrol is building an oil pipeline from the interior to the port city of Covenas.

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COLUMN

Condors lay eggs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two pairs of California condors have laid eggs in captivity, raising hopes that the four rare birds might be freed later this year, wildlife officials said. Keepers discovered the two eggs while monitoring the condor mates in Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park via closed circuit cameras. The eggs, laid hours apart Saturday, were quickly removed from the nests. There are just 40 California condors known to exist and all are in captivity — 21 at the San Diego Park and 19 at the Los Angeles Zoo. The eggs are the first clutch of 1991. It's significant for us because it's really early in the season," said Mike Wallace, the zoo's bird curator and condor programme director. Officials said that the birds, named Anya and Kaweah in Los Angeles and AC-8 and AC-5 in San Diego, could lay as many as three eggs in a season. If the pairs do well at producing eggs, "there's a good chance" they will be released into the wild, said the park's spokesman, Tom Hains. "We have a lot of pain looking very good, so we're hoping for a good season," Wallace said. California condors are believed extinct in the wild, the last survivors brought into captivity in 1987. Since 1988, 12 condors have been born in captivity and all have survived, Wallace said.

Man held for stealing truckload of school lunches

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A man was jailed Thursday and accused of stealing a truck carrying about 2,500 trays of turkey nuggets and other school lunch fare. "It shows public appreciation of our school lunches is increasing," said Aldo Colautti, business affairs director for Pittsburgh's school system, Thomas Wetzell, 24, was arrested after the heist, said Michael Williams, a school police officer. Wetzell was charged with receiving stolen property, unauthorized use of a vehicle, reckless endangerment, aggravated assault and resisting arrest. "Sufficient force was used to subdue him. He was rather combative" after the truck was found. At one point, police said, Colautti backed the truck over a police car, damaging both car and truck. The lunches, including the turkey nuggets, hash browns, apples and rolls, were bound for 15 elementary schools for Thursday's meals. Wetzell's bond was set at \$125,000. He faces a Jan. 28 preliminary hearing.

Grandmother inspires Cher to stay fit

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress and singer Cher says her grandmother helps inspire her to stay fit and healthy. Her grandmother works out every day at a gym and asked for leotards for her 72nd birthday. Cher recalled in her new diet and fitness book, Forever Fit. Excerpts from the Bantam book are coming up in People magazine's Jan. 21 issue. "My grandmother is living proof that it is never too late to change the way your body and mind can work together to look and feel your best," Cher said in the book, which is scheduled for release next week. Cher, 44, said she doesn't smoke, drink coffee or take drugs, and "almost never" drinks alcohol or eats red meat. She does admit to a weakness for chocolate, saying she tries to satisfy it with a breakfast shake made from ice, malt, a sugar substitute and unsweetened cocoa powder.

Comedian plans to stick around

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — American comedian George Burns, who turns 95 Sunday, assured an audience of his peers that he planned to stick around in show business "until I'm the only one left." After a 45-minute routine of Vaudeville songs, jokes and a little soft shoe, Burns was surprised on stage by a group of celebrities who rolled out an 8-foot-tall (2.1-metre-tall) birthday cake. "You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old," Burns told the standing-room-only crowd that accorded him several standing ovations. "I'm going to stay in show business until I'm the only one left," Phyllis McGuire of the McGuire Sisters said Burns had asked the sisters to perform with him at the London Palladium on his 100th birthday. "If we're still around," Surviving five women singers on stage, the cigar-chomping Burns quipped: "I don't know if I can take care of all you girls. One of you will have to come back tomorrow."